

# 北京青年报

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The hottest designs, direct  
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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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## The 798 of midtown

This old industrial hutong is a hot venue for art, cafes and boutiques. Come and check out its top restaurants!



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## Israeli around the world

An Israeli man has already cycled five continents to spread his belief in achieving dreams.



No longer shrinking violets, many strong, educated and independent Chinese women are finding themselves "left over." But if women are symbols of our time, as artist Ling Jian says, what does that say about modern society? Through his paintings of goddesses, Ling comments on this and the rise of nationalism.

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suffers sans  
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# Factories encouraged to hire, provide for disabled in Jinan

By Chu Meng

Two charcoal brick factories in Jinan, capital of Shandong Province, were approved to continue employing mentally disabled people as laborers, officials at the Jinan Labor Security Supervision Office said Tuesday.

Labor inspectors investigating two charcoal factories in the city's Licheng District on December 24 found eight mentally disabled workers: four in each plant.

But Mao Haibo, an official from the supervision office, said the workers were "treated well by the factory management. We found no signs of abuse."

Mao said that in an undercover inspection, investigators found that the meals provided by both factories were reasonably good and the dormitories were well heated.

"They eat and live together with the other workers at the factory," Mao said.

"China has no laws to prohibit the employment of mentally disabled workers. On the contrary, we encourage them to hire mentally disabled people as long as they treat them well and pay them in accordance with national labor law," Mao said.

Mao said both factories signed labor contracts with their workers and that as of Monday employees were still under contract. The minimum salary in Jinan is 980 yuan per month, excluding mandatory social security payments.

In the case of those with slight mental disabilities, wages are paid to either the worker or the worker's family. Severely disabled workers who are homeless are given food, lodging and



Jinan factories hire and provide for several mentally disabled people.

CFP Photo

daily necessities.

Qu Fuhong, owner of the Huashan Gaojia briquette factory, said her plant employs a dozen workers – the four who are mentally disabled were former vagrants. She said some of them

were brought there by concerned citizens who had found them on the streets, or by family and friends.

"Some of them were eating out of trash cans every day," Qu said. "We don't force anyone who is disabled to work here. If they

decide they want to leave, we won't stop them."

"We would welcome their lost family members to find them and take them home. For those who are willing to stay, we will look after them as long as they work here," she said.

Mao said his office and the local Disabled Person's Federation are discussing ways to protect the interests of workers with mental disabilities.

The federation may help to send workers home when they are no longer willing to work. It may also help employers to regularly contact the guardians of disabled workers who have them.

"If slavery-like practices or torture were found in the factory, the perpetrators would be harshly punished," he said.

Kou Zhengming, an official from Beijing Disabled Persons' Federation, said "mentally disabled people whose working skills can be improved through training need opportunities to find employment."

Kou said a well-structured network for training and assisting disabled workers in communities needs to be established. But before such a network can be created, companies and enterprises need to be responsible social and community leaders in providing more opportunities for the disabled.

"The only condition is that their employment should be legal and they must be well treated," Kou said.

The treatment of the workers was in sharp contrast to the inhumane slavery revealed earlier this month at a stone quarry in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

## Dry winter worsens city's drought

After several weeks, Beijing is still awaiting its first snowfall of the winter, the latest in 22 years.

The dry winter has worsened an already severe drought, and experts warn that with the city's groundwater already overused, it may suffer an even more serious shortage without major change.

With a population of 20 million, the city has been suffering a lingering drought for more than a decade. But this year is worse: even groundwater is vanishing. Few river pass by Beijing, forcing the capital to rely on rainfall as it awaits the completion of the South-North Water Diversion Project in 2014.

Normally, rainy season precipitation accounts for a third of the yearly rainfall. However, this year precipitation was only 52 millimeters, 25 percent lower than last year and the lowest on record since 1960.

Rainfall has been declining for the last decade, leaving the capital short 20 billion cubic meters of water: enough to fill the Miyun Reservoir 20 times over.

Statistics from Beijing Water Authority show that the capital uses 3.79 billion cubic meters of water every year, and two-thirds of this comes from groundwater.

Experts estimate that groundwater levels will fall to 30 meters by 2014 due to over-exploitation. "Groundwater is collected over tens of thousands of years and should never be tapped unless it is absolutely necessary," said Wang Jian, an expert on water resources. "After a decade of necessity, these water resources are extremely scarce."

Another reason for water shortage is population growth and the fast development of the service industry. He Jianping, vice minister of Beijing Municipal Water Conservation Office, said that domestic water use is increasing – to say nothing of how much water is used by hotels, restaurants, ski parks, car washes and spas.

To conserve water, some experts are calling on the government to step in and restrict wasteful industries – even at the cost of GDP growth.

"Wasting only aggravates this problem. Aside from praying for rain, all we can do is conserve," said Dai Yuhua, director of Beijing Water Authority.

It may be necessary to force people to rethink what it means to use water: today, most residents and managers assume they can use as much as they want since they are paying for it.

The government is working to revise the Regulations of the Beijing Municipality on Water Saving to add rewards and punishments for persons and enterprises based on their use or abuse of water resources.

(By Pang Xiaoqiao)

## School vehicle's plunge into creek renews road safety discussion

The Ministry of Education on Tuesday urged all education departments and schools to take steps to ensure traffic safety after 14 students were killed in an accident in Hunan Province on Monday.

Traffic accidents are the biggest cause of accidental deaths among Chinese schoolchildren, said Xu Mei, spokeswoman of the ministry, at a press conference.

Xu called on local education bureaus and schools to inform students and their parents about Monday's accident and to raise road safety awareness.

She said vehicles in poor conditions should not be used as school buses.

She also said educational authorities should work with transportation authorities to improve road safety in school zones.

On Monday, a three-wheeled vehicle carrying primary school students plunged into a creek in



A three-wheeled vehicle carrying 20 students tumbled into a creek Monday, killing 14.

CFP Photo

a village outside Hengyang City, Hunan Province.

The accident started a dialogue about the safety of vehicles used for school transportation.

Similar vehicles are used

throughout the country to carry students from the countryside to school, but there have been more and more accidents en route.

In one recent case, a two-year-old child named Han Han died of

sunstroke after being locked in a school vehicle by a careless driver for eight hours in Xi'an.

The month before, a three-year-old boy died of sunstroke after being locked in a school vehicle by another driver in Jiangmen.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine released new regulations for school vehicle safety on July 1.

Among the regulations are requirements that every school bus be capable of carrying 10 students and that double-decker or articulated buses are forbidden to be used for school transportation.

Vehicle must also have two emergency exits and a "black box" for recording accident data.

A teacher's seat is required on each school bus, and two teacher's seats are required for buses with more than 40 students, according to the regulations.

(By Han Manman)

# NGOs shortage of talents, money makes missions impossible



Beijing Family of Workers hosted a performance by the city's migrant children on the eve of Spring Festival 2010.

Photo provided by Family of Workers

Zhang Xiaonian was a university graduate who left campus this summer. As part of his undergraduate degree in social sciences, he spent two months working as a volunteer at an AIDS Village in Henan Province.

With his past experience and strong academic background, he was a shoo-in for a job at an NGO.

But since September, aside from a feeling of achievement, his job offered little recompense.

"Beijing is simply unlivable on a 1,500-yuan paycheck, and the future of this organization is murky," he says.

Currently he is planning to return to Shandong Province. He already took the National Public Servant Exam.

## New and prosperous sector

At the end of June 2010, China had 400,000 registered NGOs and 55 million registered volunteers. But big numbers do not beget a golden age of NGO development.

Non-government organizations first appeared in China after economic reforms in the late 1970s. By the early 1990s, there were already a number of overseas NGOs operating in China, especially larger groups like the Ford Foundation and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The real explosion of NGOs began when the earth shook in Wenchuan on May 12, 2008. Many NGOs and volunteers worked hard to provide relief and collect donations after the disaster.

NGOs were further popularized after the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and 2010 Shanghai Expo, and by June 2010, more than 400,000 social organizations had registered as NGOs under the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Among them, only 178,000 were truly private.

Since then, more than 55 million people have registered as volunteers throughout the country – 26 million of these people serve their communities and another 29 million are young volunteers ready to be called for any task.

But rapid growth and prosperity has not heralded a golden

By Zhao Hongyi

Thanks to a decade of government support, China is starting to see its own non-government organizations (NGOs).

Many expect that they will play an important role in promoting social justice, progress and distribution of wealth. But these new purveyors of goodwill and relief are struggling to balance their budgets and attract qualified professionals.



China Population Welfare Foundation, together with Smile Train in the US, provide medical care to Anhui Province children born with cleft lip and palate.

Photo provided by CPWF



Earlier this month, NGOs from around the country pooled their resources to raise awareness on World AIDS Day, December 1. The number of native NGOs in China has grown over the years, but they are still facing problems in financing and recruitment.

Ah Jing / CFP

era: in fact, most of these NGOs are on the brink of collapse.

## Difficulties facing native NGOs

A lack of resources and qualified professionals has stymied the efforts of many NGOs throughout China, leading many people

Wang Dezhi, director of Beijing's Family of Workers.

Wang's NGO is a small group providing food, temporary housing, training and education to migrant workers and their children in the capital. Fine goals to be sure, but without cash backing Wang has been forced to levy fees

cutting their public affairs courses in favor of teaching public administration.

"When they join our NGO, the young university graduates are beaming idealism," says Li Chunmei, an officer at China Population Welfare Foundation (CPWF).

"Within a couple months, they leave dejected due to the poor pay and limited welfare."

## Solving the problem

"We have to temper that idealism with reality if we are going to solve the problems we face at present," Li says.

NGOs tend to attract a special breed – people concerned with voluntarism, charity, responsibility and cooperation.

"To succeed, we are banking on dramatic changes to the social and economic backdrop of our society," she says. "We are expecting more qualified professionals to join in our team, and more people to recognize the good that we can do with their money."

When Bill Gates and Warren

Buffet came to China last October, the giants met with some of the nation's richest to encourage them to support domestic charities.

"The foundation of our current NGOs is just all wrong," Professor Zhang says. "Right now, people are founding NGOs, then going around and begging for money year after year. What matters is finding a sustainable source of money: not just money."

Inspired by Gates and Buffet, a handful of China's richest may be of help in this area. Chen Guangbiao, a construction contractor and billionaire in Jiangsu Province, vowed to follow Gates and Buffet in donating all his wealth after his death.

Zhang says that lionizing famous foreign professionals who are active in charity work may be a good starting point for convincing more of the nation's rich to give.

"I'm not sure I will work for another NGO per se, but I do know that I want to keep working to help the poor and the vulnerable," Xiaonian says.

# China enters era of Golden Misses

## 'Leftover women' call for a break

By Han Manman

"I still feel young," Geng Jin says.

At 28, Geng has big plans for herself and her career: marriage is not among them.

With two years left before 30, Geng fears every night that she might soon find herself among the ranks of China's *shengnǚ*. Loosely translated as "leftover woman," the term refers to a woman the world expects to have already wed.

"People around me always tell me that I am already 28 ... I've lost my attractiveness, and if I pass 30, nobody will want me" Geng says.

Women who remain unmarried in their prime have received unprecedented media attention this year, though much of it was at their expense as the focus of social entertainment. As though that were not enough admission of the problem, the Ministry of Education then decided to record "shengnǚ" as part of the official Chinese lexicon.

While many single women yield to social pressure and marry someone they don't really love, most continue to hope and plan for how to make their single life as blissful as possible.

### "Golden Miss" era

"It seems our plight has become the entertainment of the masses," Geng says, laughing at herself. She pauses to sip her coffee.

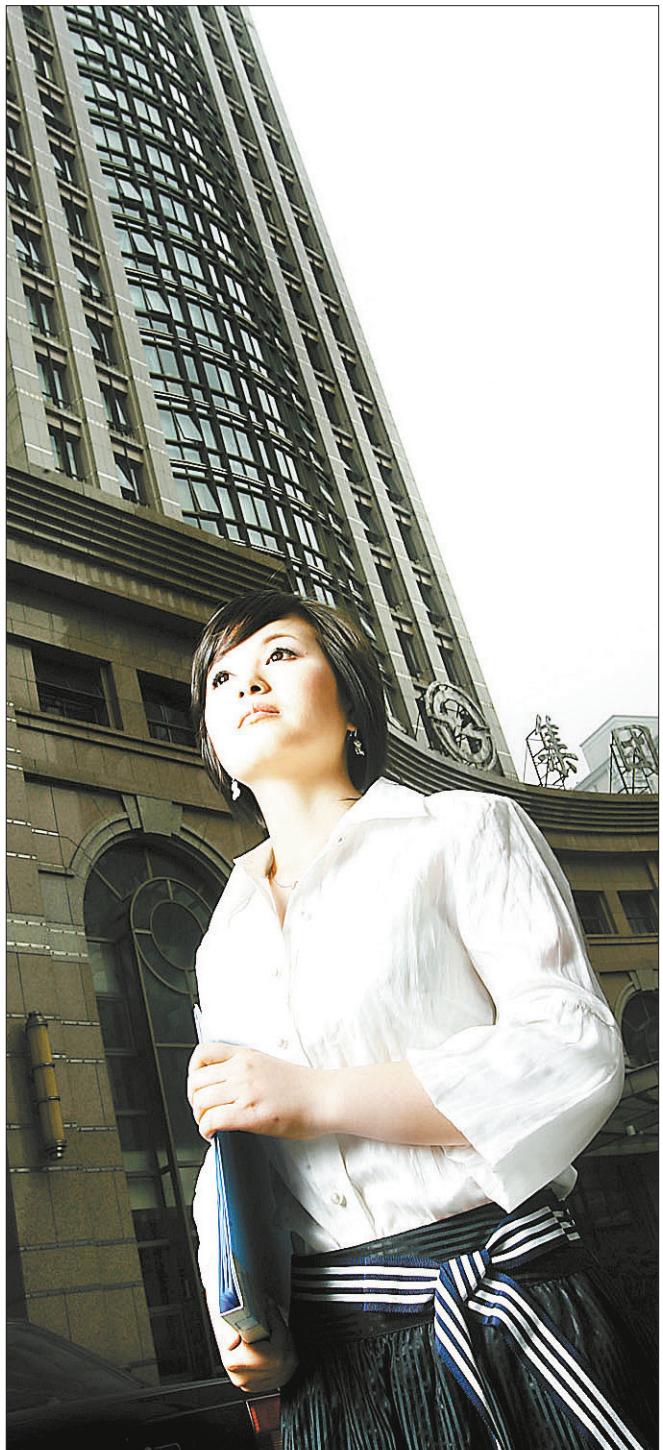
Well-educated, well-paid and independent, Geng never expected to face such pressure to pair up and settle down.

In a sampling of 30,000 men, more than 90 percent said women should marry before 27 to avoid becoming unwanted, according to a national survey conducted by All-China Women's Federation and the Chinese Research Association on Marriage and Family.

The results push the age of *shengnǚ* even younger. When last polled, men said 30 was too old.

But public opinion is at odds with reality, where 37 million women older than 30 remain unmarried in spite of a gender imbalance in their favor. Beijing is the capital of *shengnǚ*, with more than 800,000 women "past their prime."

China Central Television broadcast two shows about leftover women during 2010: *Women of Marriagable Age Should Get Married* and *Yi Yi, Go!* The main characters of these series-Jiang



Most "leftover women" live in big cities and are usually well-educated, well-paid and independent.

CFP Photos

Dayan and Zhou Yiyi - were single women older than 30.

Jiang was always seen wearing a pair of unattractive glasses and being a headache for her family, presumably because no one came to marry her. Zhou, a hostess at a radio station, was dressed in unfashionable clothes and the permanent butt of her coworkers' jokes.

Doubtless, the two shows were ratings magnets.

Various dating game shows for leftover woman have aired throughout the provinces.

This year's hottest dating game show was *If You Are the One*, produced by Jiangsu Satellite Television. The show was popular for bringing on beautiful women and asking bold, morally

challenging questions.

Of course, contestants who answered as cynically as one who said, "I'd rather cry in a BMW than laugh on the backseat of a bicycle," probably did little to open any viewers' minds about pursuing a relationship with a leftover woman.

Massive reports on the phenomenon led to the creation of support groups and free counseling to help women identify why they were still single - presuming, of course, that the fault lied with them.

### The harm of a label

"It's really unfair to present this image of single women," Geng says.

"Everything in the media is

妈妈相亲团



Single women say society places immense pressure to wed on both them and their parents.



Many singles maintain active and colorful lives while they await Mr. Right.

extremely misleading. They tag all these women negatively and play up their flaws to win more viewers."

As Geng tells it, most women are less interested in BMWs and condos than in finding someone who loves them and treats them right.

Indeed, the media has only compounded the mental strife facing China's *shengnǚ*. The term exists only to demean women and to pressure both them and their parents, she says.

"My parents asked all our relatives in Beijing to set me up with people," Geng says. "I've had to go on blind dates with more than 30 men, but all of them were meaningless," she says. The attention has left her parents feeling ashamed when friends ask whether their daughter has married.

"One day, I might end up married to a man I don't love. If that happens, it will have been for my parents' sake," she says.

Her views are shared by many single women.

Wang Yuqing, a 32-year-old communications manager, says she sees no shame in being in her 30s. Single and highly paid, she is extremely busy during the weekdays.

Her weekends are a time for relaxation. With her earnings, she goes shopping and travelling. Her strong network of friends consists mainly of women like herself.

"I'm satisfied with my life," Wang says.

Satisfied though she is, she still wonders why women older than 27 are "left over" and men older than 35 are "lone diamonds."

Some of Wang's friends have entered loveless marriages just to avoid pressure, but she insists she will remain single until she finds love.

### A matter of attitude

Li Yinhe, a renowned sexologist and sociologist, says the term *shengnǚ* is a throwback to traditional culture, in which women were expected to marry at an early age.

Despite its outward modernization, Li says China's mental evolution has not kept pace. Most people still expect women to marry early and have a son to carry on the family name.

Traditionally, a woman's best years for childbearing are seen as before 28 and never after 35.

More than 25 percent of the 30-something women are still single in the US and France. "No one sees them as so different from married women. Nevertheless, in China, a woman in her 30s having such a colorful life is considered abnormal," Li says.

In Li's opinion, most Chinese men are simply unaware of how to appreciate mature women. While they emphasize youth, foreigners tend to prefer maturity.

John Daugherty, an expat from the US, agrees. Next year he plans to marry his 35-year-old Chinese girlfriend. Daugherty says women older than 30 have more personal experience, a stronger personality and are more mature thinkers.

"Age is not so important for me," he says. "Being single is an individual choice, and a civilized society should be tolerant of people who live their own lifestyles," he says.

# The congestion dilemma

## Capital caps new vehicle registrations to stem traffic jams

Cities are built for people, not cars. However, with more people now able to afford cars, major cities like Beijing and Shanghai are becoming nothing but giant parking lots.

The Beijing government announced recently it will limit the issuance of new car license plates to ease the city's traffic congestion.



Drivers step out of their vehicles to survey traffic along East Third Ring Road in Beijing.

Fu Zengkai/CFP Photo

### The third eye

#### Can Beijing cycle away its traffic woes?

By Huang Daohen

A possible solution to the city's traffic problems may be to swap steering wheels for handlebars. Most big cities have turned to cycling to ease traffic nightmares.

Paris, for example, addressed its traffic congestion by creating an effective public biking system – the Velib scheme – where residents can borrow bikes for free. Hangzhou began a similar plan a few years ago, with 1,000 bicycle rental booths offering 20,000 bikes for rent.

Bai Xiuying, sales director at Bike Rental, one of the capital's major bike rental companies, said there is little room for bicycles in the city's traffic plan.

The government proposed to build a public bicycle system by 2015 that would place 50,000 bikes at 1,000 booths along subway lines and in key areas around town. But Bai said the policy doesn't go far enough to promote the city's bicycle use.

"Bike rental is a lot like a public cause," she said. "For now, it remains just a plan. The

government has not announced concrete measures to ensure effective operation of the public bicycling system."

Once known as the kingdom of bicycles, fewer people in Beijing commute by bike now, as many more people are eager to drive cars.

Bike rental companies like Bai's struggle to stay afloat. Bai said the company has hardly turned in profit since its opening in 2005.

Though she's going through hard times, Bai said she believes

the conditions will improve. "In the long term, bicycle rental may be profitable," she said. "Cycling can solve a lot of the city's problems, and would go a long way in the fight against traffic congestion and pollution."

Bai said the government should learn from the experience of European cities like Paris and Amsterdam.

"They have developed detailed rules and management mechanisms to maintain the system, and their residents obey the rules," Bai said.

### Market impact

#### Auto market might shrink after purchase restrictions

By Chu Meng

Beijing is China's largest auto market and has been a gold mine for global auto manufacturers since 2000, but that may all change after the purchasing restrictions go into effect, said Jia Xinguang, chief analyst at Chinese Automobile Manufacturers Association International.

At the end of 2009, China surpassed the US to become the world's biggest auto market by selling 13.6 million vehicles that year. The Chinese government had introduced a preferential tax policy for cars with engines that were 1.6 liters or smaller.

The trend continued in 2010, when 18 million vehicles were sold, a 32 percent increase. In Beijing, a whopping 800,000 vehicles were sold.

In two short years, the government has turned 180 degrees with its policy, not only doing away with the tax incentive but limiting

the number of new license plates to be issued in 2011.

Jia said the policy was stricter than what his association had predicted. Automakers probably need to revise their manufacturing and selling strategies in China next year. In Beijing alone, there will be at least 56,000 fewer clients in 2011.

"A remarkable shrink is about to happen," Jia said. "First of all, Beijing's 500 auto agencies are falling into the bitterest winter in history. One third of them will be edged out of the market, for 240,000 vehicles can hardly feed them all. At the same time, related employees will lose their jobs."

Not a single new car will be sold before January 26, the first computer-based lottery day for the first batch of 20,000 new plate licenses.

The association has already estimated that new car sales

in Beijing are likely to decline 50 percent to around 400,000 next year.

Although this policy is only being implemented in Beijing, it can influence other major cities. "Beijing is hardly the only city with poor urban planning and severe traffic congestion. It could be a huge blow to the auto industry all over China," Jia said.

Li Ying, vice president of Ford China's public relations department, said in a forum at the Guangzhou Auto Exhibition that Ford has opened 66 new dealerships in China, bringing its total to 100 new dealers in the country in 2010.

"Though only 14 dealers are in Beijing, their sale volume accounted for 36 percent of the total number across China. We do not worry that Beijing's restriction will influence our practice in the China market as a whole, for we have also emphasized second-

and third-level cities for quite a long time. But we do worry that the sudden cut in Beijing will devastate our sales increases in 2011," she said.

Meanwhile, compared with foreign brands, start-up domestic auto manufacturers with eyes on low and medium markets will witness harder challenges.

The stock price of Huachen Auto, the domestic joint-venture manufacturer for BMW, dropped by 6.9 percent in the Shanghai Stock Market on the day the new policy was announced. Geely, which bought Volvo, dropped by 6.3 percent, and Dongfeng, the biggest carrier vehicle manufacturer, dropped by 9 percent.

Also adding to their burdens is the 4 percent increase in fuel prices, the recent interest rate hike to rein in inflation and the increasing costs of raw materials.

Private car buyers will receive 88 percent of the new plates, or 17,600 plates per month. Two percent will be for commercial use, while the remaining 10 percent will go to companies, government institutions and others, Zhou said.

Among those qualified include permanent residents, military servicemen, foreigners, residents of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and those who have no residency status but have paid personal income tax or made social security contributions in the city for at least five consecutive years.

The number of cars in Beijing has grown quickly as urbanization and modernization progresses. This has caused severe congestion in some downtown areas, bringing the average speed of cars to only 20 kilometers per hour.

Beijing's municipal government said it aims to have public transportation account for 50 percent of commutes in the city by 2015.

(Agencies)

# The cost of failure

## Year of business scandals fuels future development

By Huang Daohen

You could call it a year of economic success: the country's economic recovery continues and its GDP grew 10.6 percent during the first three quarters.

But for many companies, scandals made 2010 a year of reckoning.

By looking back on the Foxconn employee suicides, former Microsoft CEO found to be faking his credentials and Toyota's admittance of failing its customers, we can see the heavy price companies pay when they cheat to achieve their ambitions.

### Mass suicides at Foxconn

Suicide is contagious.

When 19-year-old Ma Xiangqian, a Foxconn employee, killed himself on January 23, another 13 of his young coworkers followed by leaping from the roof of the employee dorms.

The jumps resulted in 10 deaths, most now attributed to the company's abysmal working environment that forced young people to toil on

foot for many hours and little pay.

On May 26, Foxconn President Terry Guo apologized to the public and vowed to reverse the epidemic. Two months later, Foxconn gave its assembly workers a 66 percent salary increase to 2,000 yuan per month.

#### Editor's note

The days for China being a cheap factory are mostly gone –

a side effect of the economy shifting from low-wage manufacturing to high value-added production. Companies are now moving further inland or to Vietnam, where they can still pay workers a pittance. But eventually, these places too will come to expect more. And that's when employer-worker communication will become essential to success.

### HP faulty laptop

Computer giant Hewlett-Packard (HP) came under fire in March when more than 170 Chinese consumers filed a group complaint about HP's faulty laptops. Customers said the video cards were overheating and the screens were failing. A HP employee denied the existence of any of these quality problems and blamed the failure on cockroach

infestation in users' homes. With insult added to injury, authorities were motivated to investigate HP's laptops. On March 15, the company issued an apology and said it would extend the warranty periods of related faulty products. Nevertheless, it refused to issue a recall.

#### Editor's note

Chinese consumers are

becoming aware of their rights. Previously, they would never complain and multinational companies were eager to take advantage of this weakness. HP's shame may convince other big-name companies to more carefully inspect their products' quality and ensure their consumer service follows international standards.

### CCI bribery

According to an indictment by the US Department of Justice in July, more than 40 Chinese companies may have accepted bribes from the California-based Control Components Inc. (CCI). The valve manufacturing giant was accused of sending 240 corrupt payments overseas, more than 60 of which were to Chinese companies. The

40 Chinese companies named in the indictment include large state-owned enterprises like Petro China, CNOOC, China Nuclear Energy Industry, China Guodian and Huaneng Power International. Results of a government probe have yet to be made public.

#### Editor's note

This is not the first case of

overseas companies bribing their Chinese counterparts. Business bribery, either from home or abroad, always hurts the fair market. Though China lacks any specific laws concerning foreign business corruption and bribery, the government is stepping up to enhance the legislation and law enforcement in the sector.

### Visa vs. UnionPay

In early June, Visa International told banks outside the Chinese mainland that they must cut off access to the China UnionPay system. The first violation would result in a charge of \$50,000, and further violations would cost \$25,000 each month. China UnionPay, the country's only card payment-handling network, fought back,

saying that no party has the right to limit cardholders' choice of overseas payment networks. The move comes as credit card companies are becoming increasingly frustrated in China, where transactions must be conducted through the UnionPay monopoly. Despite making major headlines, Visa's UnionPay ultimatum went unenforced.

#### Editor's note

This kind of dispute is unavoidable and reflects the fierce competition between Chinese companies and their Western counterparts. China UnionPay wants to go abroad and expand overseas, which would surely threaten Visa's interests. But for any business competition, cooperation is more likely to result in a "win-win" situation.

### Smear scandal

The country's dairy giants locked horns for a bitter battle in July. Mengniu, the largest dairy company by market value, was accused of plotting online attacks to tarnish the image of Yili Group, a rival. Rumors circulated that Mengniu fabricated

the Yili product safety scandals using a public relations company as cover. On October 22, Mengniu issued an apology and two members of its management were detained.

#### Editor's note

Welcome to the dark side

of the PR industry. Public relations firms offer hire mercenary Internet trolls to help bump and bury publicity related to their clients.

These cover-ups, however, once exposed, end up causing even more trouble.

and his company.

#### Editor's note

No role model is perfect, but one can't be a model without being honest. The country is already being blasted for piracy and counterfeiting, and potential cheats like Tang only serve to make people more skeptical.

### Fake credentials

Scores of Chinese entrepreneurs came under the spotlight for faking their academic credentials. The most prominent among them was Tang Jun, former president of Microsoft China. Tang, known as the nation's most valuable manager, was accused by Fang Zhouzi, a scholar, of



Scandals made 2010 a year of reckoning.

CFP/IC Photos

### Analyst

#### Investing in China in 2011

With so many business scandals and risks, how should Western investors get involved in the China market in 2011?

Stefanie Zhu, marketing manager at Deloitte, said there are three megatrends of growth worthy of arousing investors' attention.

The first is that Chinese people are increasingly looking to travel. Statistics from the National Tourism Bureau show that more than 50 million people traveled abroad last year. Among the \$9 billion that Chinese people spent on luxury goods during 2010, more than 60 percent of that was spent abroad.

"Chinese consumers are like the Japanese in the 1980s," Zhu said.

Investments should focus more on industries that cater to the growing travel and leisure sector, she said.

The increasing purchasing

power of Chinese women is further enlarging this market, she said.

Women now account for almost half of the household income in China and have more say in daily purchasing decisions.

Zhu also said potential growth in the future will come not from major cities like Beijing, Shanghai or Guangdong, but from second- and third-tier cities like Zhengzhou, Chengdu and Hefei. These lower-tier cities are hotbeds of growth due to decreased labor costs.

But she cautioned that investors would be wise to focus on China rather than on Chinese companies: the stock prices of Chinese companies – whether listed home or abroad – remain very volatile.

"That's because hedge funds control an inordinate amount of Chinese equity," she said.

# Protecting Chinese characters

## New regulations ban English words in Chinese publications

By Li Zhixin/Liang Meilan

Like it or not, the Chinese language is undergoing a huge transformation.

Emerging online slang and ungrammatical phrases used in daily conversations, media reports and textbooks are signs of the language's increasing Anglicization: what some scholars consider a threat to the linguistic integrity of Chinese.

Campaigns to safeguard the purity of Chinese have led to new laws and regulations that aim to root out poor grammar and misused vocabulary.

The argument grew more heated this month.

On December 20, the General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP), the country's administrative agency responsible for regulating and distributing news, print and Internet publications, issued a series of regulations prohibiting Chinese publications from using English words, abbreviations and acronyms, or even words that are a blend of Chinese and some foreign language, or Chinglish and words with "vague" meanings.

Commonly used terms like NBA (National Basketball Association), GDP (gross domestic product), CPI (consumer price index) and WTO (World Trade Organization) will be prohibited in Chinese publications.

A recent Internet buzzword created by Chinese netizens that attracted foreign media attention, "geilivable" (meaning "cool"), is also banned.

GAPP said on its website that the increased use of English in Chinese texts has caused confusion and was a means of "abusing the language."

"It has severely damaged the standard and purity of the Chinese language and disrupted the harmonious and healthy language and cultural environment, causing negative social impact," it said.



An increasing number of young people are forgetting how to write Chinese characters.

Li Ming/IC Photo

### Comment

#### Understand the ban

*This isn't a big deal, as the ban on English is limited to formal Chinese publications. Nobody is saying Chinese people won't learn from brilliant foreign ideas. What this is doing is standardizing written works.*

*But on the other hand, keeping the Chinese language "pure" is an impossible proposition, as the development of Chinese can hardly do without the nourishment of foreign culture. Words of foreign origin have become an important component of Chinese.*

*If we really want to keep its purity, we have to go back to the age of oracle bones during the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC)*

*— Duan Qigang, editor*

#### No "pure" under globalization

*In this age of globalization, foreign languages influence the language of almost all countries. No language can stay pure. In fact, a language cannot develop if it is too rigid.*

*Moreover, the mixing of Chinese with foreign languages is the result of cultural exchange, which should be seen as a positive development. China should try to get closer to the rest of the world, not shy away from it.*

*China is rising as an economic power. It has to rise as a cultural power too, which it cannot do by trying to be different in every aspect with the rest of the world. We should definitely be proud of Chinese culture and the Chinese language, but not use irrational policies to highlight them.*

*— Wei Yingjie, columnist*

#### English takes precedence in higher education

*English has priority over Chinese in universities and workplaces in China. English is a compulsory course at universities and highly valued, while Chinese is just an elective.*

*A great number of employers also attach more importance on English skills instead of Chinese ones, which makes students and*

*job seekers scramble for various English certificates.*

*Of course people with higher educational backgrounds will mix Chinese with English. I think, at the very least, Chinese should be a required course in colleges in order to ease the tension.*

*— Zhang Jian, doctorate student at China Foreign Affairs University*

#### Improve Chinese language education

*The vulgar mixing of Chinese with foreign languages, as well as the public's ignorance of Chinese, shows there's a sharp divide between contemporary Chinese and traditional civilization.*

*What's more, there is a big problem in the current Chinese teaching. The teaching style is too rigid and inflexible. Teachers teach how to pass exams because they are evaluated based on their students' test scores. Meanwhile, students' Chinese level has deteriorated in recent years.*

*The fragmentation and non-*

*standardization of Chinese usage creates problems when Chinese people try to communicate among themselves. What's worse, it may jeopardize people's cultural and national identity. So it is imperative to protect Chinese language so it doesn't become a crisis in the long run.*

*— An Li, Chinese teacher*

#### Online phrases do harm

*The impact of cyber words and advertorial phrases is overwhelming. They also harm the purity of the Chinese language. But we can hardly prohibit them because they have become the rage among young people today.*

*In my view, we don't need to adopt an across-the-board ban on usage of foreign words because they have become part of our lives. We should allow those words in order to promote mutual understanding while focusing the ban on vulgar words.*

*— Zhong Zhen, civil servant*

#### The best period for Chinese

*We should admit that Chinese language and culture exerts less influence than English language and culture right now. But we should realize that English's superiority is partly due to the strength of Western politics, economy and culture. So if we really want to keep Chinese pure, the best way to do it is to boost China's economy and increase the attractiveness of its political system and traditional culture, instead of shutting out the world.*

*The Chinese language is currently in the healthiest state it's been in this century, supported by the robust growth of the economy and the country's increasing importance on the world stage.*

*In this age of globalization, such a policy can't be conducive to the rising of Chinese language and culture; it can only be seen as lack of confidence in Chinese culture.*

*— Deng Yuwen, senior journalist*

### Background

#### Timeline of the campaign to protect Chinese

##### 2000

The current national Law on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language is implemented without regulations of foreign words.

2004

Wang Meng, a reputable writer, gives a speech at the Cultural Summit Forum warning about the danger of Chinese Anglicization, arousing a heated discussion.

2009

Fu Zhenguo, director of the Science and Education Section of the *People's Daily* overseas edition, posts a series of articles on his blog calling for national awareness in protecting the purity of Chinese. "English, like a

large group of ants, is gnawing at Chinese," he writes.

#### April 2010

The State Administration of Radio Film and Television bans CCTV from using English abbreviations, acronyms and vague words.

#### December 2010

The General Administration of Press and Publication bans all Chinese publications from using English, Chinglish, abbreviations and acronyms in broadcasting.

# Dream with open eyes

## Israeli man cycling around the world

By Han Manman

With a long, red beard and orange kerchief on his head, an Israeli man rode his muddy bicycle into Beijing last week.

This was meaningful because Roei Jinji Sadan, 28, has now finished riding across the fifth continent on his world tour. He has cycled across every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

Sadan's life goal is to bike around the world and inspire local people in every country to follow their dreams. Though he has had to sacrifice many things – such as two relationships – in pursuit of this goal, Sadan says he will keep going until his journey is done.

### China, the biggest challenge

"I just cycled the Great Wall," Sadan says, excitedly. "I checked online, and there are definitely fewer than 10 people in the world that have done the same thing I did."

He pulls out a map to point out that he has cycled 50,000 kilometers through 37 countries in five continents over four years.

Sadan has overcome life-threatening dangers and major obstacles over this time, but he says the biggest challenge thus far has been the four-month trek from the deserts of western China to the east coast due to one thing: language.

Because he doesn't speak Chinese, Sadan says he suffered 40 days without meeting anyone who he could communicate with.

This caused problems when ordering from a restaurant or asking for directions on the road.

"Finding a place to sleep was extremely challenging, as many places I arrived at didn't accept foreigners," he says. "And Internet bars proved problematic as well because I don't have a Chinese ID card."

He says that while he found places to sleep, local police sometimes came at night and knocked on his door to search his luggage and check his passport. As a result, he often pitched a tent for the night.

At the beginning, Sadan felt terrible.

"No one could understand me, and they drove me crazy because they always laughed at me while I spoke or at how I used chopsticks," he says.

He says he understands that they weren't mocking him, but it still bothered him to be unable to explain himself.

Eventually, Sadan got used to it, and the journey became more interesting. Truck drivers invited him to drink beer, and he realized that body language – like the smile – was his most useful communication tool.

The only thing Sadan regrets is that he could not learn more about Chinese society and culture due to the language barrier.

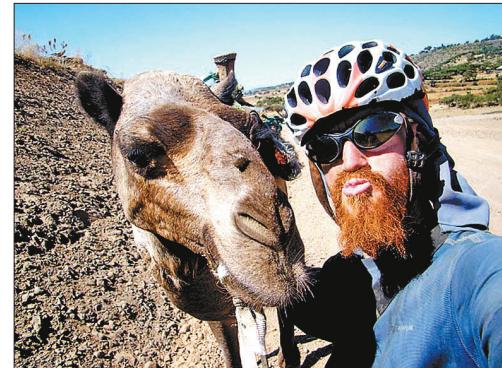
### Exploring the world

After a few days' rest, Sadan will continue to New Zealand and Australia to finish his tour.

Sadan's dream began in 2007, after leaving the army. He decided to do something special, so he hiked from the north of



Sadan, who has already spent four years on the road, will complete his goal of cycling around the world after he bikes across Australia next year.



During the trip, Sadan has met various people and animals.



Sadan's trip has not been without difficulty – like biking through deserts.



Everywhere he goes, Sadan makes friends with locals and encourages them to follow their dreams.

Israel to the south. After scaling all the country's major peaks, Sadan asked himself: "OK, what next? What's the biggest life adventure?"

"I got an idea to see the world by bike," Sadan says. "Cycling is

the best way to see the world; you feel like you're part of the road. You can hear locals shouting 'Hello' from the side of the road. There's no glass separating me from my surroundings."

He spent a month's salary on

Emuna, a blue and white steel-frame hybrid Thorn bike.

"She's my best friend," Sadan says about the bike with a laugh. "Of course it's a girl – I couldn't cycle that long with a guy."

In his first two years, Sadan was supported financially by his family. Later, an Israeli mineral water company called Eden Springs sponsored him.

On his trip, he has experienced all the extremes. In Africa, he got stuck in a desert where the temperature was 53 C; in Alaska, he couldn't find a place to eat for 800 kilometers, which caused him to lose 15 kilograms in a week.

In Africa, he encountered a lion and contracted malaria. In Mexico, he got mugged and lost his bike and all his gear except a video camera, which he kept hidden.

His worst moment, though, was when he got hit by a car in Bolivia.

"It was a hit-and-run, no one stopped to check on me. I was lying on the road, my eyes full of blood," Sadan recalls. "Minutes later, I woke up, brushed the dust and everything, and cycled over to the hospital."

"I told myself these nightmares are necessary for me to fulfill my dream."

### Inspiring people to follow their dreams

Sadan calls his world journey "Dream with Open Eyes" and has a website by that name. He has two other goals: tell people around the world about the real Israel and inspire them to follow their own dreams.

While cycling across continents, Sadan always visits Israeli embassies and asks to give a lecture about the "real" Israel.

A few days ago, he spoke at an international school in Beijing.

"I talked with 500 people about my journey. With movies and photos, I tried to give them as much information as I could about my dream and share with them the world," Sadan says

"After the lecture, one girl came to me and told me that I was an inspiration to her and that what I've done has greatly encouraged her to pursue her own dream," he says, adding that all the difficulties he's encountered are worth it during moments like these.

But Sadan's dream has come at a cost, namely two serious relationships.

"My dream is so big; love is a problem for me," he says. "But I still believe there will be a woman that understands me."

Sadan says he is just a normal guy with a crazy dream, and that everybody needs to have one.

"Do whatever you want to do, but do it the best way. It doesn't matter if you want to cycle around the world or you want to be a lawyer, every guy has his journey," he says.

"When I was young, I really wanted to be a basketball player. I did everything to achieve the goal, I trained a lot," he says. "Though the facts show I wasn't good, at least I tried."

About his second dream – cycling across the world – Sadan says, "I will pursue it until I die."

He is currently keeping a diary that he plans to turn into a book someday.

"This won't be a travel guide like *Lonely Planet*, but a book that will give you something that comes straight from my heart," he says.

# The Irish TV host who rocks

By Wang Yu

Most locals would recognize Risteard O Deorian as that everyday TV host or as the best cross-talk comedian in the expat community. But to music fans, his name is now attached to something else: Low Bow, the name he uses while playing blues-rock.

Born in 1976, O Deorian came to China in 1998. Two years later, he came under the tutelage of Ding Guangquan, one of the most reputable cross-talk actors in China, and soon found himself thrust onto the scene.

O Deorian was just a novelty at first – an Irishman performing an ancient Chinese pastime – but he improved over time. Capitalizing on his exposure, he became TV host of an English-language children's program on CCTV-10 and host of a news program on

China Radio International.

Last year, O Deorian created his Low Bow persona while on a business trip. He brought his guitar on the road and decided to create a one-man band. With a three-string electric guitar, a few petals, a bass drum and hit-hat for creating sound effects, O Deorian fused garage music with traditional blues in a very simple but powerful way.

"John Lee Cooker, Son House, Jack White ... such artists had a great influence on me," O Deorian said. "I like music that is raw and makes you feel it's incomplete. I used to watch artists who play their guitar with only three strings – that was fantastic and inspired me, showing me that music can be so direct."

Low Bow is not his first band in China. Like many Westerners who played in bands in high school and

college, O Deorian had the chance to continue making music when he arrived in China. In 2003, he formed a band and played the bass while an American played guitar and German was on the drums. They practiced for two months, until the SARS epidemic, and then the American went home.

"That was also a blues band. I love blues because it is pure and simple," O Deorian said. "In the early age of rock, people didn't have high-tech recording equipment. Blues musicians had to play as good as they could in one go at each recording."

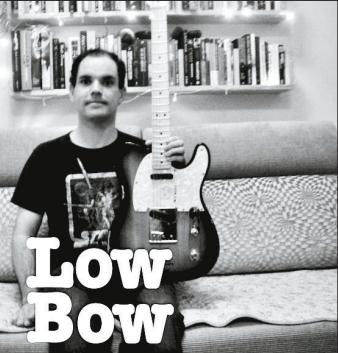
The music scene in Beijing is more divided than what O Deorian is used to back home. Clubs offer opportunities to artists with a certain style, and because of that, Low Bow is still considered an outsider. During our interview, O Deo-

rian asked about the styles of the famous clubs in Beijing.

On the other hand, O Deorian is familiar with local rock and often goes to watch other musicians.

"I think the Chinese rock scene is still in its infancy. If friends in Ireland listen to some of the popular bands here without knowing who they are, they might mistake them for Western groups," O Deorian said. "Chinese music is still working on forming its own style. Only doing that will make you stand out in the world scene."

O Deorian plays at least two gigs a month, which he said is a little too much. As a TV host, he has to travel a lot and rarely spends time at home. Though



Risteard O Deorian

Photo provided by Risteard O Deorian

his Chinese wife still supports him, O Deorian prefers to spend more time with his family.

Recently, Low Bow released a home-produced, nine-track online album called *What You Wish For What You Get*. O Deorian spent a week finishing the recording at home after sending his child to kindergarten every day. The album was done in collaboration with Wang Xinjiu, drummer of the local band Birdstriking.

"I've never thought about signing a contract with any labels. Now I can make music, and there are people who like it. That's enough," O Deorian said.

## Master dancer leads Mainland's first Butoh show

By Liang Meilan

A four-act Butoh dance led by Katsura Kan and seven of his Chinese students drew about 100 people to the Penghao Theater on Christmas Eve.

The performance, *Time Machine*, was born out of an intensive workshop led by Kan, a 62-year-old Butoh master.

Butoh is the collective name of a group of artful dances and movements that usually involves white face

paint, grotesque imagery, absurdity and controlled movements. Aspects of it are related to the traditional Japanese Noh drama, "but Butoh's spirit is totally different from Noh's," Kan said. "It is anti-tradition."

This was the first time a senior Butoh artist has conducted a class in mainland China. Kan, formerly a major performer at the top Butoh troupe Byakkosha, is currently working on a project called Beckett Butoh Notation in New York and a dance oratorio project in Athens.

Created in the late 1950s by Tatsumi Hijikata and Kazuo Ohno in Japan, Butoh was first considered a controversial underground activity full of obscure gestures, nudity and taboo subjects. The performers often made exaggerated facial expressions.

"Unlike classic Western dances like the ballet, which express human moods such as happiness, sadness and anger through body movements

without using much facial movement, Butoh stresses facial expression," Kan said.

In Kan's interpretation, the essence of Butoh is about making the dance unidentifiable on stage. The goal is to clash with tradition, with expectations and with what is deemed "acceptable."

"If an audience member can say something about the meaning of the dance after the performance, he wins; if he can't, I win," Kan said, pointing out that the dance's ability to stir viewers' imagination is the charm of Butoh.

"Ten Butoh audiences have at least 11 interpretations of a Butoh dance," he said.

Unlike most modern dances that interpret human emotions or imitate human movements, Kan's Butoh works mostly touch on abstract, "non-human" subjects.

Kan admits his view of life contains some degree of agnosticism, which is taken to the extreme in this expression: "I'm not sure that I'm

human," he said.

"To define what is human is an immensely difficult task," he said. "But we should try an unusual way and identify non-human existences and then rule them out one by one. If lucky enough, we might hopefully find what is human, though the possibility is slim."

"The fundamental message of Butoh can be seen as an approach to find self-identity."

Zhang Zhiming, a student in Kan's workshop, agreed.

"During the class, I invented various 'strange' movements to express indefinable feelings that might make no sense in any school of dance," Zhang said. "I came to this idea: 'Butoh is diverse, and man's freedom can also be diverse.'"

Kan said he believes dancing in Japan is similar to dancing in China in many ways.

"The dancing practices of the two countries put a lot of emphasis on the communication between the human body and the environment, which is

reflected in the character for 'dance' in the two languages," Kan said, adding that Butoh embraces this thinking.

When Butoh appeared in Europe in the late 1970s, it was not accepted as a dance. But it gained popularity in France, "because the French are always questioning, and they considered it an avant garde art form and tried to interpret it," Kan said.

Gradually, critics accepted Butoh.

Though Butoh's beauty lies in its unidentifiability, as Kan puts it, the act of trying to interpret Butoh has pushed it closer to the mainstream.

In the last decade, Butoh has been performed in front of politicians and as a way for expressing health, healing and beauty. Butoh communities can be found around the world.

Though Butoh continues to gain popularity, teachers like Kan worry that younger dancers are striving too much to copy the movements of their predecessors. This goes against the subversive nature of Butoh, whose dancers need the boldness to step out on their own.

"Some young people consider the first generation of Butoh as 'traditional,' and they try to imitate it," Kan said. "They are going in the wrong direction."

After visiting several independent and underground theaters in town, Kan said that Beijing has the ability to attract more creative dancers and choreographers because there is a lot of room for the younger generation to explore new realms.



Katsura Kan performs Butoh at Penghao Theater.



Photos provided by Lai Huihui

# Re-gifting to those in need



Fortune Connection Club hosts charity events to collect gifts for the less fortunate.

Photo provided by Fortune Connection Club

By Liang Meilan

While some people think Boxing Day – the day after Christmas – refers to the tradition of boxing up unwanted gifts, the term actually comes from the UK, where December 26 is also known as St. Stephen's Day. The tradition was to donate goods to those of lower classes on this day, since Christmas gifts were normally reserved for those of similar class statures.

Sort of in that vein, Colin Friedman, a staff member at Fortune Connection Club (FC Club), a net-working organization that holds regular themed events for locals and expats, organized a charity event in Beijing on Tuesday to collect gifts for the less fortunate.

"Every organization was racking its brain to stage an interesting year-end party. It was the same with FC Club, but what's different is we wanted to make it helpful," Friedman said.

Following the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility – a buzzword this year – FC Club sought a way to get people to exercise "individual social responsibility." The club found a partner in Roundabout Charity Store, an NGO with connections to 30 charities in and out of town.

Each attendee got a gift bag made by Roundabout volunteers into which they could put their charitable donations.

"This event benefited the par-

ticipants in a number of ways," Friedman said. "It showed them that they are not alone and that anyone with a heart can help those that need a hand. It re-legitimized the concept that charity begins at home and provided an answer for those who wished to contribute but didn't know how to in Beijing."

Jennifer Liu, 25, one of the participants, donated a pea coat her classmate gave her for Christmas.

"I'm reading the book *The 100 Thing Challenge* by Dave Bruno and thinking about rearranging my wasteful life by giving out unnecessary items," Liu said. "This event provides me a wonderful opportunity. And I'm

happy that my coat will no longer be just a decoration but a daily necessity for someone else."

"I am sort of passing the love from the friend who gave me the coat to a stranger who badly needs it."

In addition to practical items, part of the event's proceeds from ticket sales and raffles also went to charities.

Those who also want to donate can emailing [jelena.charitystore@gmail.com](mailto:jelena.charitystore@gmail.com) to contact Roundabout.

FC Club's upcoming event is a headhunter social networking event at Flames, Hilton Wangfujing. The club expects 150 participants.

## Event

### Yen Countdown party

For six years, Yen Countdown has been a popular New Year's Eve ritual for thousands of partygoers and music lovers. The 2011 lineup will take place at D Park's C Factory in 798, featuring big names in the capital's DJ scene – Mickey Zhang, Dio, Yang Bing and Donald Summer.

Where: C Factory at D-Park, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 31, 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 15652169887

Cost: 100 yuan for advance, 150 yuan at door

### Architecture exploration in Tianjin

90 Percent Travel provides an opportunity to see architecture in Tianjin. There used to be a saying during the late Qing Dynasty: the political front stage is in Beijing, the backstage in Tianjin. People from all over the world have brought their architectural styles to Tianjin.

Where: Beijing South Railway Entrance No. 20, 1 Yongdingmenwai Dajie, Fengtai District

When: January 1, 9 am – 6 pm

Tel: 15117916648

Cost: 490 yuan (includes lunch at a spy museum), 390 yuan for children under 16

### Hiking and hot springs

Beijing Hiker, established in 2001, is starting the year off with a scenic and easy three-hour hike through hills and valleys. Cost includes transportation, guides, water, snacks and a late lunch after the hike.

Where: Bus leaves from Starbucks in Lido Holiday Inn, 2 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: January 2, 8:30 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6432 2786

Cost: 550 yuan, 400 yuan for children under 12

(By Liang Meilan)

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# Emergency medical station set up at airport for foreigners



Zhong Hao CFP Photo

Chinese airports are improving their overall medical capabilities by enlarging professional teams and upgrading medical equipment.

By Chu Meng

Beijing Capital International Airport Hospital and Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics (BJU) have opened an emergency medical station for foreign passport holders at Beijing International Airport.

"Foreigners, whether under travel insurance or not, can receive emergency assistance at the station," said Sylvia Pan, BJU general manager. "We can also help them transfer to A-level state-owned hospitals according to their needs."

This move comes as the result of an accident on November 6, when a female Chinese passenger fell off the boarding bridge of a China Eastern flight after landing in Beijing from Ningbo.

She died hours later, after emergency personnel were unable to save her.

The airport set out to improve its overall medical capabilities by enlarging professional teams and upgrading medical equipment in the airport hospital, especially in the emergency center.

"The Terminal Tower 3 alone has about 30,000 international departure passengers every day. We have had a growing number of medical assistance demands from foreign passengers since 2008," said Liu Zhaoqi, head of the airport hospital.

He said language was one of biggest hindrances to developing treatments for foreign travelers. Another obstacle, which the latest development

addresses, is the lack of a procedure for transferring patients to comprehensive hospitals.

According to BJU's website, BJU is China's oldest and largest foreign-invested provider of full-service premium quality health care. The agreement signed between the two entities ensures that non-Chinese speaking global passengers who become sick on a plane or at the airport will be taken by ambulance to BJU's outpatient care centers, VIP inpatient rooms or the Emergency Room.

Patients arriving at BJU from the airport will have access to a team of internationally trained, English-speaking nurses and doctors who are specifically trained in emergency

medicine and trauma. BJU's doctors are board-certified from the US, Canada, Hong Kong, Russia and other countries.

Furthermore, according to the agreement, BJU staff will provide medical phone support to non-Chinese-speaking patients at the airport hospital, training for their staff members in the latest emergency practices and support from BJU's multilingual patient services team.

"From now on, non-Chinese-speaking international travelers should feel good knowing that if they get sick coming to or leaving Beijing, they can safely be cared for by a globally renowned medical team that will communicate effectively to meet their needs," Pan said.

**ASK** Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyi@ynet.com](mailto:weiyi@ynet.com)

My boy is 2 and really likes stories, so I'm trying to find some good Chinese storybooks for him. Where can I find some illustrated children's books that use simple characters and tell exciting tales?

Have you considered ebooks? One website worth checking out is bookbox.com, which has lots of animated ebooks suitable for kids of all ages. There are stories in 25 different languages, Mandarin included.

I'll be arriving in Beijing tomorrow and will stay only a few days, so I need cheap accommodations. Location isn't very important as long as there's a subway station nearby. Can you recommend a place?

There are many reasonably priced hostels in town, like Orange Hotel (orange-hotel.com.cn) and Home Inn (english.homeinn.com).

Many foreigners like to stay at Home Inn, which is tidy, serves food and has Internet that is fast and stable. Check out the location near Xizhimen station on subway Line 2.

I'm tired of relying on cafes for wireless Internet. I'm thinking about buying a China Telecom 3G modem, but I can't find much information how to purchase one. Can you help?

A China Telecom 3G modem can be bought on Amazon.cn with a year's service for 1,700 yuan. It gives you 300 hours per month, with each additional hour at 3 yuan. Speeds vary between 60 and 180 kilobytes. Dropped signals are seldom. You can also get it at China Unicom business lobbies. Call 10010 for more information.

I love skateboarding, but it seems very few people in Beijing enjoy it. Are you aware of any skateboarding parks here?

Actually, there are several. Try one of these hotspots:

- The square in front of Wangfujing Cathedral (14 Dongjiaominxiang, Dongcheng District). Anyone interested in skateboarding can just show up in the afternoons and on weekends. It is easy to meet like-minded people and start a conversation.

- Ezone Sk8 Park, which has a 200-member skateboarding club (Fangzhuang Sports Center, 1, Fangguyuan, Fengtai District).

(By Liang Meilan)

## Hainan tax refund to benefit foreign shoppers

By Chu Meng

Starting tomorrow, foreign tourists who have resided inside China for less than 183 consecutive days and residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan will be able to claim tax refunds when shopping in the island province of Hainan, the biggest tourist destination in southern China, the Ministry of Finance said Monday.

Total purchases from select shopping centers must exceed 800 yuan. Products eligible for refund are organized into 21 categories including clothes, shoes, cosmetics, watches, jewelry and home appliances. Food, cigarettes, alcohol and vehicles are not included.

Refunds can be picked up at the customs gate upon departure.

The policy is the first of its kind for individual consumers in China; all existing tax refund policies favor businesses.

Zheng Jianxin, deputy direc-



China Duty Free building in Hainan

purchases, regardless of domestic or imported products, in pilot shopping centers.

"There are more than 50 countries with tax refunds for non-native tourists, and the results have been positive," Zheng said. "China is studying from them. It is our first try. We are learning whether it's feasible."

Lü Yong, deputy director of Hainan Provincial Finance Bureau, said that in developed tourist destinations, shopping accounts for about 40 percent of all tourism income. But in Hainan, shopping accounts for just 20 percent.

According to the bureau, more than 480,000 visitors traveled to Hainan during the first three quarters of this year, bringing tourism income to \$240 million (1.6 billion yuan).

In other countries, no matter how the refund policies work, it has indeed boosted local consumption, tourism and logistics.

tor general of the Ministry of Finance's Department of Taxation, said that even though Hainan is China's lone tropical island destination and one of the oldest Special Economic Regions, established in 1988, the island's travel retail market is still relatively underdeveloped.

The move is seen as another boost to further implement the government's blueprint in build-

ing Hainan into an 'International Tourism Island,' Zheng said. The International Tourism Island plan was the provincial government's foremost economic project, aiming to compete with tourism from surrounding countries, approved by the central government in January of this year.

According to the ministry's website, eligible tourists are entitled to tax refunds of 11 percent off



The Moon Palace

By He Jianwei

Mythology is the root by which a culture understands the world around it, and how it came to be.

Most mythologies have some characteristic goddess in charge of the moon. But while the Greek goddess Selene's mad love brought her down to the earth every night to lay with Endymion, China's Chang'e never leaves the moon.

Known for his portraits of women, Ling Jian's latest works retell the stories of myth in a modern context. He hopes to challenge viewers to rediscover the cultural links between contemporary art and ancient myth.

Ling Jian has decorated the hall of Today Art Museum like a moon palace. A giant crystal rabbit made of acrylic hangs upside down waiting for the goddess' arrival. The walls exhibit 10 of his oil paintings of women and rabbits.

*Moon in Glass*, the new solo exhibition, is named after a Song Dynasty (960-1279) poem by Su Shi, "Prelude to Water Melody: The Mid-Autumn Day."

The exhibition is Ling's first effort to look to ancient poetry for inspiration. The classical art is governed by archaic rules that force specific numbers of characters to each line.

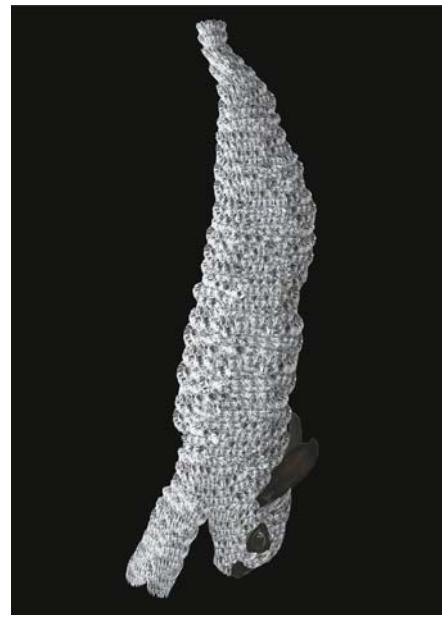
"Although ancient poetry is [written in] an old style, it reflects our time," Ling says, pointing to Su's poem as an example of how a fixed format can create something timeless – something he attempts to channel in several larger-than-life portraits of hauntingly beautiful women who stand in for Chang'e.

Photos provided by Today Art Museum

# Woman the symbol of time



Black rabbit



Waiting Rabbit



Phoenix coronet

## Moon in Glass Ling Jian Solo Exhibition

**Where:** Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingdi Community, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

**When:** Until January 16, 2011, daily except Monday, 10 am – 5 pm

**Admission:** 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

**Tel:** 5876 9804

**Where:** Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

**When:** January 15 – March 9, 2011, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

**Admission:** 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students, free on Thursdays

**Tel:** 8459 9269



Guns N' LiLies



White rabbit



Falling Angel



Moon in Glass- Chang'e



Gift Giving

"Each myth is rooted in its cultural background. Consequentially, we can learn about a culture from its myths," he says. "If Chang'e were to land on Earth, I wonder what kind of life she would experience. Would she find happiness here, or would she be drawn in by material temptation?"

Ling's figures bear little resemblance to the ancient representations

with which more people are familiar. Throwing away ghastly block prints of chubby figures, his goddess has an oval face, almond eyes and luscious red lips.

In the exhibition space, Ling's portraits are reflected in moon-shaped mirrors. As visitors move through the exhibition space, the images in the mirrors shift and distort, occasionally dis-

sipating to give the viewer a clear look at himself. One long, open wall contains an installation of unadorned round mirrors that reflect both the viewer and the portraits of Ling's "angels" on the wall behind them.

Born in 1968 in Shandong Province, Ling studied fine arts at the Art College of Tsinghua University. After completing his degree in 1987, he left

China to study first in Vienna, and then in Hamburg and Berlin, where he settled down.

But even abroad his work remains dominated by exploration of Chinese social life.

Like many of his peers, Ling seeks reconciliation between the past and the present. But his focus is the role of this conflict on the lives of women.

**"Women are a symbol of time. The beautiful ladies I paint embody our society and its rising tide of nationalism, as well as reflect our contemporary values and aesthetic standards."**

"Women are a symbol of time. The beautiful ladies I paint embody our society and its rising tide of nationalism, as well as reflect our contemporary values and aesthetic standards," he says.

The deliberately exaggerated facial and body features seem to blend Asian and European features in what is the quintessential standard of beauty in most consumer societies.

Ling wields his brush like a surgeon's

scalpel to craft idealized faces with a frightening adherence to every standard of modern beauty.

The woman in his piece Gift Giving has elongated, slim arms, a slender body and voluptuous breasts – an embodiment of the impossible, "arbitrary and extreme beauty standards we impose upon ourselves," he says.

The woman's captivating eyes, sensual cherry lips and smooth skin add to the appealing image. In The Moon

Palace, the woman wears a thong and uses her arms to hide her breasts.

The shoulder patches, collar badges and the green uniforms in Army Princess, Flower and Guardian Angel reflect a nostalgic view of the Cultural Revolution, under which Ling grew up. But in his paintings, this imagery is neither critical nor satirical.

"Temptation is a motivation to survive. People have to face the irresistible temptations of reality, commerciality and

sex. It's within these that I am exploring to find some truth," he says.

Deliberately beautiful to a fault, his women emulate the distant gazes of fashion magazines: they reek of artifice that has distracted many from pursuing spiritual enrichment during the past 30 years of rapid change.

After completing its run at Today Art Museum, Ling's collection will move to Ullens Center for Contemporary Art for another two-month showing.



# Turkish author writes of love and escape in World War II

By He Jianwei

While there's no doubt that 2006 Nobel Prize laureate Orhan Pamuk's the most readable Turkish writer, 69-year-old Ayse Kulin is more widely read.

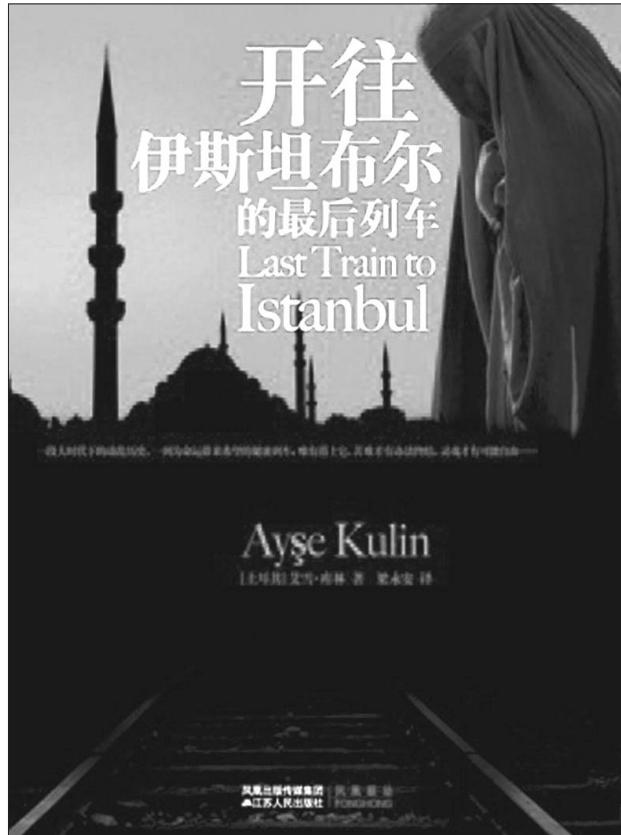
Last year Kulin's books outsold Pamuk's two to one.

Kulin has been a frequent recipient of the Author of the Year award in Turkey. Many of her novels have been adapted for film and translated into other languages.

In November, Jiangsu People's Publishing House released her first Chinese translation on the mainland. The book, *Last Train to Istanbul*, describes the true story of several Turkish diplomats who saved the lives of many Jews during the Holocaust.

Most of Kulin's earlier novels dealt with everyday life in Muslim society. Her 2001 novel *Face to Face* was an appeal for Turkish-Kurdish dialogue. The book explored the Kurdish question through long interviews between a journalist and an imprisoned Kurdish activist.

*Last Train* however focuses on the lives of non-



**Last Train to Istanbul**  
By Ayse Kulin, 360pp,  
Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 29.5 yuan

Muslims in Turkey.

Like all Kulin's novels, *Last Train* is a page-turner: it is a story of love and escape interwoven with the turbulent history of Europe.

The story moves back and forth between Istanbul and Marseilles, Ankara, Cairo, Paris and Berlin, and then back to Istanbul.

Selva is the daughter of one of the few remaining pashas, a high rank in the Ottoman political system. She falls in love with a young Jewish man, Rafael, but Selva's family opposes her marriage to a non-believer.

She and her beau flee to France, but fail to find happiness.

On the eve of World War II, the pair ends up ensnared in Adolf Hitler's web of terror. As the Nazi grip tightens, they live in perpetual fear of the rumored concentration camps.

Back home, Turkey fights desperately to avoid being dragged into the war, walking the tightrope between the Axis and Ally powers.

Kulin follows developments in her country during the war and the lives of Selva and Rafael in Europe.

## Bookworm book listing

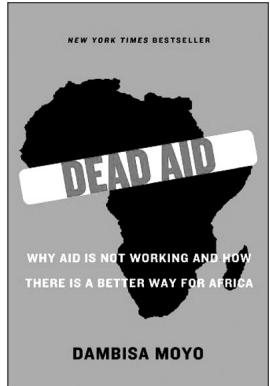
Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to Beijing Today readers.



### The Radetzky March

By Joseph Roth, 352pp, Penguin Classics, \$16.95

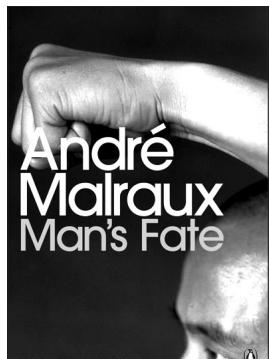
This novel spans three generations of the Trotta family during the waning days of Austria-Hungary. It shows society in decay, a journey through the war and its devastating aftermath.



### Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa

By Dambisa Moyo, 188pp, Douglas & McIntyre, \$16.95

Moyo describes postwar development policy in Africa today and takes on one of the top myths of our time: that the billions of dollars in aid sent by wealthy countries are helping reduce poverty and increase growth. The harsh reality is that poverty levels continue to escalate and growth rates have steadily declined. Millions continue to suffer.



### Man's Fate

By Andre Malraux, 356pp, Vintage, \$14.95

This story is an account of a moment in the early days of the Chinese Revolution. Set in the 1920s, it foreshadows the modern era and brings to life the profound meaning of revolutionary impulse.

(By He Jianwei)

## Poet's Whitman book a love song to the loner

By Charles Zhu

*On Whitman*, by prizewinning poet C. K. Williams, offers a penetrating and interesting critique of Walt Whitman as part of the Princeton University Press Writers on Writers series.

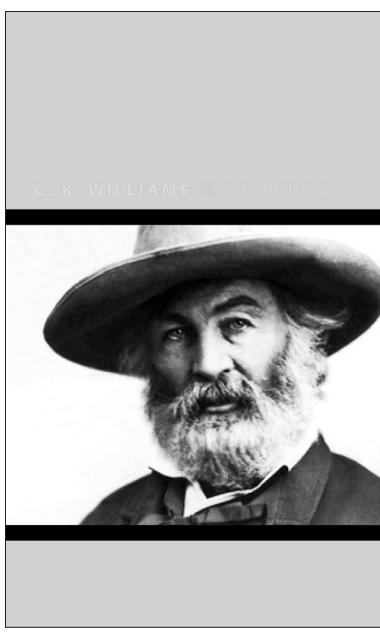
Williams' relationship with Whitman began at the age of 16, when he purchased *The Portable Walt Whitman* for himself. The purchase sparked what would become a lasting poetic passion.

"Just reading it, the brilliance of the moments of inspiration [were] like raw synaptic explosions, like flashbulbs going off in the brain, in the mind: pop, pop, pop," he writes.

*On Whitman* often reads like a love song to the most original poet America has ever produced. In Williams' world view, Whitman is the forefather of the hedonistic '60s: a great father of the Beats, the hippies, the commune-dwellers and the organizers of festivals.

The lionization of Whitman comes about because Williams writes exclusively about the man's poetry – not his life.

The book is divided into general themes, such as America, voice, sex, nature, immortality and homosexuality, with a wonderful selection of quotations. Williams compares his work with contemporaries like Baudelaire and Longfellow,



**On Whitman**  
By C. K. Williams, 208pp,  
Princeton University Press,  
\$19.95

and finds Whitman more precise in his natural imagery than Shelley.

While Tennyson's elegiac mode is limited to one note, Whitman is a more rhythmic grandeur in his Lincoln elegies. His influence on such modern poets as as Allen Ginsberg, Federico Garcia Lorca, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Pablo Neruda and Vladimir Mayakovsky is discussed in the book.

In the section "The Music," Williams taps into the poet's rhythm, sound, language and imagery to speak passionately of Whitman's music. He argues that regardless of where the music contained in Whitman's free verse came from, it is unique to the poet Whitman and "astounding."

In the last chapter, Williams writes about the moral demands of Whitmanian canon: "He teaches [us] to be accepting, to be generous, unselfish; to refuse to reject anyone else's suffering, or pain, or joy either; to not fear sex, to revel in it, all of it, every permutation of it; to desire, to not mistrust the demands of the body."

"He wants us not to be afraid of ourselves, even of our dark, darkest, most doubting selves," he writes.

Walt Whitman has long been regarded as the epitome of American individualism and the free spirit.

The music of his words has challenged generations of readers to heed their own inner voices and learn to be greater than they were.



Ji Xiaohua is famous for founding the Science Squirrels Club.



Sulumi makes music on his GameBoy.



Gong Yelong and his love bank

## Top creative projects of 2010



A popular fanclub make Gag Manga Biyori famous.



Jovi Xu's pixel art  
Illustration provided by Jovi Xu



Jiepang is one of the most popular mobile phone applications among big city smartphone users.



hiro Maruo.

Local musicians such as Sulumi are also looking back to 8-bit technology. By distorting waves and manipulating noise channels, he takes 8-bit music beyond nostalgia to something approaching sexy or violent. His creations fill a glaring gap in China's underground music scene.

### Grassroot rules

Even ideas build from the ground up for local audiences take time to spread. But Ji Xiaohua and his Science Squirrels are determined to break into the mainstream.

After he received his Ph.D. in neurobiology at Fudan University in 2007, Ji began writing pop science columns. When he moved the Beijing, he started a science club to bring together like-minded people.

The Science Squirrels Club got its start as a private blog, but netizens quickly elevated Ji to the status of a geek idol.

While not all members were Ph.D.s, all came from solid scientific backgrounds. The club has since grown to more than 100 members: it includes students, teachers, professors and journalists.

The Science Squirrels Club is now a staple of national media. When newspapers need to fill space with tech topics, they turn to Ji's club. The club's popularity has made it an appealing partner for education officials that want to reform how science is promoted.

While the Squirrels are looking for attention, CuCn 201 is considerably more underground.

The fanclub group, formed by several dorm-mates at Communication University of China Nanjing, rose to fame with its dub of the Japanese humor series Gag Manga Biyori. The project began as a souvenir for the broadcasting graduates, but the Web demanded more.

The idioms and phrases of their "dorm language" soon became an Internet phenomenon. The pinyin catch phrase "geili" has actually made it into the Urban Dictionary project.

Song Ming, one of the members, said he dreams of getting to work as a professional voice actor in the ailing domestic movie industry.

The group originally planned to dissolve after graduation, but Internet fame is a strong motivator. Thus far they have released eight dubbed episodes online.



Photos provided by NO3NO4



By Wang Yu

2010 has been a year of creativity. We've seen collectors of curios, students starting gaming bars and artists drawing factual comic books. All these ventures share one thing: a minority audience.

Diversifying tastes and a tough job market have created a gap where young people with creative ideas can thrive. All it takes is a microblog and some social media savvy to push your idea close to the edge of the mainstream.

But being on the edge of the mainstream is a world away from actually being in it. Even the most remarkable ideas in this round-up of 2010 have a lot of work ahead if they plan to sparkle into 2011.

bank, decided to capitalize on that shortcoming in his new business.

Customers deposit souvenirs from their dead relationships to Gong and pay a deposit. Gong had heard of similar love banks in Europe eight years ago, but he never thought one would work in China.

In 2004, six German artists made a love bank which worked like a dating agency. Gong's bank is a real business that sells its "products" to broken-up lovers as well as those still in a relationship. He recently started to offer a "static movie" service – a series of photos set to a story.

The bank has survived by fusing traditional "wedding agency" services with Gong's new concept.

Yoka, a Beijing-based tabletop gaming company, was born when a group of college students fused Western collectable card games with The Romance of the Three Kingdoms. At first, its Sanguosha spread only among hardcore gamers. When it hit a Shanghai gaming bar, the number of players exploded from 20 to more than 600.

While the creators borrowed heavily from foreign card games, it is their art style that has attracted players.

Pixel artist Jovi Xu, owner of Bad Taste, an online shop in Guilin, Guangxi Province, is well-known on the Internet. Her art consists of bizarre, violent scenes with SM fetish overtones. Women in her art as a rule are bound or brutalized – at least in her more innocent creations.

Xu cites her influences as being the famous eBoy pixel art group and Sue-

### Oversea inspiration

Jiepang.com, a location-based service similar to the innovative US Foursquare, has just signed its 60,000th user.

The site allows users to "check in" from their smart phone using Jiepang software. The site broadcasts their location and helps them find where their nearest friends are located.

Like many recent start-ups, Jiepang founder David Liu, a Chinese American, and his partner Yang Yuanchi were influenced by Western pop.

Since May, the site has cooperated with brands like Apple and Nike to spread its name through mass check-in events like the one in Pudong, Shanghai, where users were given a free DaCode T-shirt upon checking in.

Unlike social networking sites, location-based services focus on the real world. With little competition, Jiepang built its reputation by attracting a small amount of dedicated users from the media, fashion and design industries. By turning opinion leaders into users, it got the word out fast.

The trick is to be the first to import these new ideas from abroad. Chen Li, designer and founder of the sock-stuffed toy brand NO3NO4, got her idea from a Japanese magazine four years ago. Today her dolls attract many young buyers.

Chen came to attention in August 2008, when she and other native designers were invited to an exhibition in Stockholm. "There was a stereotype that, as a big manufacturing base, China is bankrupt of creativity," she said.

The dolls were so impressive that NO3NO4 was invited to cooperate with Swatch on its Spring Festival issue. Today the brand has chain stores in North America, Europe and Australia.

### Good adaptation

But it takes more than a copy to succeed: ideas that last have to be customized to suit China.

The Love Bank in Beijing is a good example. When a relationship fails and people try to move on, it helps to forget the past. Some people are blessed with forgetfulness: most are not.

Gong Yelong, founder of the love

# Designers open personal stores around town

By Annie Wei

Beijing is attracting more international designers who come to learn about the local fashion scene and to scout the capital for spots to open stores.

Earlier this month, Diane von Furstenberg flew in for the opening of her first DVF store in Beijing. Young Chinese designer Simon Wang, who just moved back from the UK, also came to Beijing for media interviews.



Simon Wang

## Back to the motherland

Simon Wang, the first Chinese mainland designer to appear in London Fashion week in 2004, returned to the mainland to exhibit his collection at the latest Shanghai Fashion Week.

Wang was born in Inner Mongolia and went to UK to study fashion in 1999. In London, he learned design and the inner workings of the industry.

Wang's work focuses on feminine designs, with particular attention to cuts and details. Wang said in the UK, customers labeled his work "party-wear," but he thinks it also functions as daily-wear.

Wang's latest fall and winter collection showcased at Shanghai Fashion Week was inspired by the Achang ethnic minority from Yunnan Province. The Achang wear colorful silver accessories and headscarves. These elements also match the international vintage trend of the 1980s.

Wang, who has a studio in Shanghai, plans to maintain his market in the UK while exploring other markets in China and the West – including the US.

Wang said he used to be influenced by designers like Alexander McQueen, Miuccia Prada, Marni and Alberta Ferretti, but is now interested in Phillip Lim, who gained success designing sporty and fashionable clothes.

Wang said that while he specializes in women's wear, he will start designing men's wear as well. He used to use colors boldly, but now he tends to be more conservative, employing lots of black.

Wang's designs can be purchased from asos.com and simonwang.com.



Simon Wang's design for 2010 fall/winter



Photos provided by Simon Wang



DVF store at Shin Kong Plaza



Diane von Furstenberg

## DVF – for the independent cosmopolitan women

Many Chinese consumers might not recognize Diane von Furstenberg, but those who like watching fashion-related TV shows know very well who she is. The popular MTV reality show, *The City*, features beautiful and fashionable girls who work at Furstenberg's store, DVF.

In one episode, Furstenberg talks to a girl whose boyfriend has just broken up with her. "Love is the fire and distance is the wind," she says in a French accent. "When the love is strong, the wind blows it."

Furstenberg is a legendary figure in the US fashion industry. In the 1970s, she built her business on the success of body-hugging wrap dresses that became emblematic of the era's fashion. Some original dresses now hang in the halls of the Smithsonian.

Furstenberg's business crashed in the 1980s, but she made a comeback in 1997.

Now 63, Furstenberg is still considered cool by lots of young, ambitious women. It makes sense, because she has always been a trailblazer. In an interview with the *New York Times* in 2009, Furstenberg said when she was growing up, she wanted to be: "Independent. Independent. Independent. Financially independent."

"To have a DVF shop in Beijing is a dream come true," she said when her DVF flagship store opened in Shin Kong Plaza in November. It was the brand's 37th global boutique.

The Beijing store, with its two diamond-shaped rooms, carries a full range of DVF products, including ready-to-wear clothes, accessories, shoes, handbags, eyewear, books and small leather goods.

### Diane von Furstenberg

Where: 3rd floor, M3006, Shin Kong Plaza,

87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5738 2502

*The store sells a full range of DVF products: ready-to-wear, handbags, shoes, accessories and leather goods.*

Photos provided by DVF

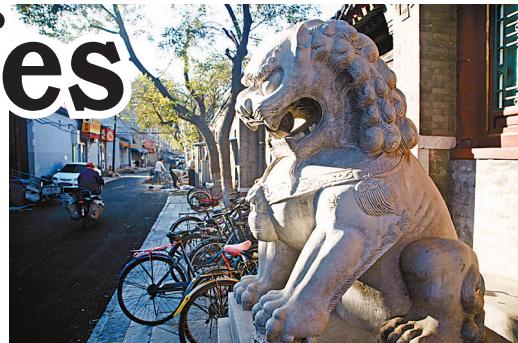


# Restaurants and cafes at Fangjia Hutong

By Annie Wei

Fangjia Hutong near the Lama Temple is the newest hip place in town. The alley was once an industrial area that was reinvented for contemporary art, cafes and boutiques, making it a miniature 798. Small restaurants have blossomed in this area.

Beijing Today checked out the place and scouted a few restaurants worth the penny.



Fangjia Hutong near Lama Temple  
Zhang Kaixin/A Jing/CFP Photos

## Trainspotting – restaurant and cinema

This loft restaurant has been open for nearly two years serving authentic Guizhou cuisine. The big windows make it cozy for lunch, and attract many passersby.

Recommended dishes include yansuan yipinrou (38 yuan), stewed fermented green vegetables and sliced pork that has been marinated for four hours. The fat is glossy but doesn't taste greasy at all. Miaowang yu (98 yuan) is steamed fish with green chili and peppermints, and comes out looking fresh and tasting delicious. We also ordered diced tomato (26 yuan), roasted lemongrass chicken (48 yuan), lamb and peppermint hotpot (48 yuan) and beef rice noodle (18 yuan).

The restaurant also attracts cinema lovers with its weekend screenings.

### Caihuoche (Trainspotting)

Where: C1, Fangjia Hutong 46, Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – midnight

Tel: 6406 0658

Cost: Average 60 yuan per person



Guizhou cuisine uses a lot of fermented green vegetables.  
Mai Tian/CFP Photo

## Aimo – travel-themed restaurant

Aimo is the place to go if you're interested in traveling to the southwest. Many young visitors are attracted by the restaurant's online promotions, which offer things like a 28-yuan meal if you come in a pair; it includes roasted fish, vegetable salad, small rice noodle and honey Pu'er tea.

The vegetable salad (20 yuan) is a simple blend of sliced red cabbage, lettuce and tomato with dressing. Roasted dishes start at 6 yuan. The fish, which has a strong lemongrass flavor, is tender and full of flavor because it has been marinated in special homemade sauces.

The delicious rice noodles (8 yuan) come in a big serving. Heisanduo (26 yuan), a classic Yunnan dish made of three sliced ingredients, is a must-order.

Zusun qiguciji (38 yuan), Yunnan steam chicken soup with zusun fungus, is a delicious soup, but the chicken is mediocre.

On the first floor, you'll find accessories from Yunnan at reasonable prices. The second floor has a terrace, but it's probably too cold to sit outside during the winter.

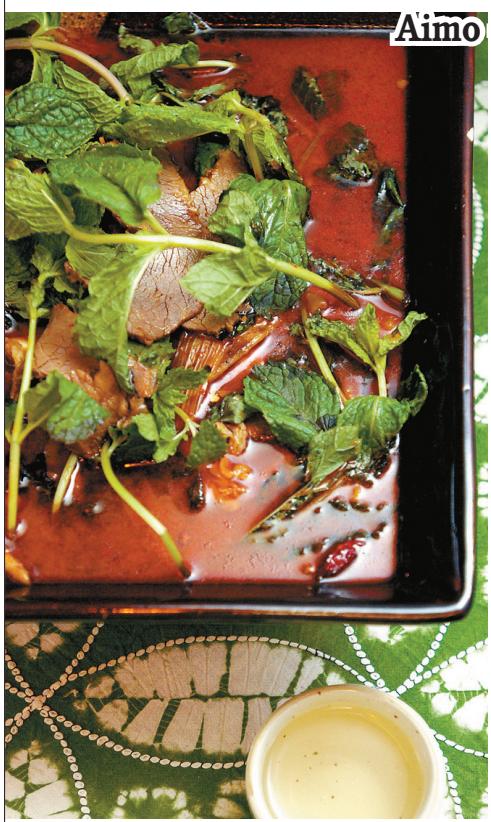
### Aimo Restaurant

Where: 46 Fangjia Hutong, Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – midnight

Tel: 6400 1725

Cost: Average 40 yuan per person



Yunnan cuisine uses a lot of peppermint. CFP Photo

## Food with coffee and music

Fangjia Yi'er is a two-story restaurant with cozy decorations opened by a young musician who performs with his band on Fridays and Saturdays.

The restaurant offers Sichuan food, so many dishes on the menu are tagged with multiple chili icons.

For cold dishes, try the lemon cucumber (12 yuan) – peeled cucumber that's sweet and sour with the taste of lemon juice.

Other recommended dishes include jidan ju xiaren (38 yuan), baked eggs with shrimp. Try to eat it as soon as possible because the dish turns cold quickly. Shiguo xingbaogu (38 yuan), fried mushroom in hot stone bowl, keeps the original flavor of the mushroom, with a slight sweetness. Also good is the fangjia tanziji (38 yuan) – stewed fried chicken with bean sprouts, onion and chili.

## Popular kebab restaurant

Fengzhu Chuanqi sells kebabs like lots of other places, but what makes it popular is its chicken feet (9 yuan for three), which were introduced to the public by a Beijing TV station's food show. Every local who visits Fangjia Hutong cannot help but try them.



Spicy Sichuan food YY/CFP Photo

We also ordered fried frog (48 yuan), sesame rice (2 yuan) and taiji haixiangeng (28 yuan), an ordinary soup with minced frozen shrimp.

### Fangjia Yi'er, Coffee Music Travel

Where: 12 Fangjia Hutong, Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – midnight

Tel: 6407 4480

Cost: Average 50 yuan per person

Various kinds of kebabs start at 2 yuan each.

### Fengzhu Chuanqi

Where: 46 Fangjia Hutong, Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 4:30 pm – 1 am

Tel: 6400 8388

# Spanish flamenco prince to have 'fiery' debut in Beijing

By Chu Meng

Flamenco dancing prince and Spanish national treasure Joaquin Marcelo, chief choreographer of Carmen Mota Dancing Company, will bring his new piece, *Fuego*, a fusion of modern dance elements with flamenco, to Beijing on January 18.

"When I danced, I wanted people to come and watch me more because of my dancing skills, not because I was 99 percent deaf," Marcelo said in an email.

Marcelo lost his hearing when he was 8 after a severe illness. While he was born to a family of dancers – his mother was one of

Spain's top flamenco dancers and founder of Carmen Mota Dance Company – his condition made him lose touch with dance until he was 21.

"Amazingly, I could feel the beat through the floor and the air even after I went deaf," he said. "My body pulsed with the enthusiastic music each time I watched rehearsals in my mom's company."

"It was like the fire of being a dancer inside my body."

Marcelo said his new work, which means "fire," was an expression of his life track as a dancer.



**Friday, December 31**

**5**

## Exhibition Tell Me How to Be Sad - Yang Wei Solo Exhibition

Yang draws inspiration from daily life, such as a confession letter to his parents. He treats art as a sorrowful way to balance the realities of life.

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 20, 2011, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8457 3506

## Nightlife Cui Jian and Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Veteran rock musician Cui collaborates with Beijing Symphony Orchestra to combine rock and classical music.

Where: Workers Gymna-

sium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: 200-2,800 yuan  
Tel: 6417 0668

## Movie



**Kadosh** (1999)

This film is about the plight of women in Haredi society. The elder sister has a child with someone other than her husband and the younger child marries a man arranged by her parents.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 6553 2627

**Sunday, January 2**

## Exhibition

## Gustave Dore Solo Exhibition

French artist Dore was a successful book illustrator in the 19th century, producing Bible-story illustrations and illustrating works by Rabelais, Balzac and Dante.

Where: Noda Contemporary Gallery, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 26, 2011, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5127 3187

## Movie



**Lover's Discourse** (2010)

This Hong Kong film includes six love episodes,

representing situations in love, such as hidden love, secret crush, unrequited love and triangle love.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: 60 yuan  
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

## Nightlife Second Hand Rose

Formed 10 years ago, this

Starting when he was 21, Marcelo studied flamenco with some of the best artists in Carmen Mota Dance Company. In spite of his supposed handicap, he joined the dance company three months later.

Soon he distinguished himself as one of the company's best dancers.

"While dancing, I could not feel the vibrations produced by the steps of other companions, since the stage floors were excessively hard. For this reason, I developed a rhythm from within," Marcelo said.

Marcelo honed his other senses and developed a style that was uniquely his own. In 2009, he took over as the company's chief choreographer. "Choreography came naturally, after dancing for 15 years on stages the world over," he said.

*Fuego* is Marcelo's first piece, which he calls "an energizing fusion between the deep-rooted Spanish gypsy dance and an abundance of modern styles." It began its world tour earlier this month.

The performance is divided into two sections: a fusion flamenco dance and an original gypsy dance.

There will be no glamorous costumes, as the first section has been modernized: felt hats and black suits are the principal attire. But the trademark movements, including quick snaps of the wrists and sharp footwork, will still be there.

The second section will present the traditional flamenco, complete with stunning costumes and fiery music.

"The first part was developed from a flamenco background but with a personal interpretation of the concept of a 'show,'" Marcelo said. "The second part is more faithful to the roots of flamenco."

**Fuego**  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, Xizhimenwai road, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm, January 18-23  
Admission: 180-980 yuan  
Tel: 6833 6969

## Upcoming

### Drama Beloved

Old classmates meet again while house hunting. They fall in love again and discover where home truly is.

Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm, till January 9, 2011

Admission: 120-580 yuan, 80 yuan for students

Tel: 6551 6930, 6551 6906

## Stage in January

### Concert

#### Pinchas Zukerman and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Bamberg Symphony Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 3, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 200-880 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### American Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: January 4, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Dance

#### Nacho Duato's Choreography

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 13-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 160-500 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Madame Butterfly

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 13-16, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Fuego! – Carmen Mota's First China Tour

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: January 18-23, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,200 yuan  
Tel: 5129 7260

### Drama

#### Lao She's Short Stories: Five Acts of Life

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 1-9, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

#### Red Cliff

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 13-16, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

**Saturday, January 1**

**6**

## Exhibition Consciousness – Zeng Yang Solo Exhibition

In Zeng's paintings, a circle represents a moment in time, symbolizing countless momentarily distract between birth and death.

Where: Space Station, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 20, 2011, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9671

## Movie



**3 Idiots** (2009)

This Bollywood comedy is about two friends on a quest for a lost buddy. On their journey, they remember a long-forgotten bet, encounter a wedding they

must crash and a funeral that goes impossibly out of control.

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6270 1928

## Nightlife



## Long Shen Dao Debut Album Release Party

Reggae band Long Shen Dao's first album, *Tai Chi Reggae*, is influenced by Taoist philosophy.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711



band is known for combining traditional Chinese instruments with rock 'n' roll.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 80 yuan in advance, 100 yuan at door

Tel: 6402 5080

# Diet tips to fight stomach cancer

By Li Zhixin

With more than 400,000 new cases reported annually, China is the capital of stomach cancer. More than 40 percent of all stomach cancer cases worldwide occur here.

Last Thursday at a cancer forum in Beijing, experts called on the nation to form healthier lifestyle habits to help prevent the fatal disease.

## Identifying risk factors

Wang Guimian, an oncologist at the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, blamed the prevalence of stomach cancer among Chinese people on poor dietary habits.

Many people have been growing an appetite for fats, sugars and other high-calorie foods hand-in-hand with the nation's GDP.

"If you look at the number of people buried in the Wenchuan earthquake, every year we lose four times that many to stomach cancer," she said. "Somehow, these other deaths go unnoticed."

Stomach cancer is treatable if detected early, but few seek medical attention until the disease is in its final stages.

Many symptoms of stomach cancer appear fairly mild. Its early stages cause indigestion and burping, and a feeling of fullness even after a small meal. As the disease progresses, one can develop abdominal pain and nausea, and begin to expel bloody vomit. In the most advanced stages, the cancer causes rapid weight loss, bloating of the abdomen and bloody stools.

"But having one or more of these symptoms is not considered a diagnosis of stomach cancer," Wang said.

While there is no known cause of stomach cancer, doctors have been able to identify several risk factors:

**1. Bacterial infection:** Stomach cancer has been linked to ingestion of food contaminated with bacteria and fungi. An infection of Helicobacter pylori seems to be a major cause of stomach cancer. Long-term infection by these bacteria can damage to the inner layer of the stomach.

**2. Diet:** Studies show that salty foods, preserved meats, smoked foods and pickled vegetables increase the risk for stomach cancer, while fresh vegetables and fruits reduce the risk.

**3. Smoking and alcohol:** Smokers double their risk of stomach cancer compared to non-smokers. The risk remains elevated for 10 to 20 years after one stops smoking. Regular drinking compounds the risk for smokers.

**4. Family history:** People who have had a first-degree relative with stomach cancer are at a higher risk.

**5. Environmental factors:** Exposure to certain dusts, molds, fumes and other environmental agents at home or in the workplace has been linked to a higher-than-average risk of stomach cancer.



CFP Photo

## Chinese methods of treatment

Stomach cancer is usually treated with a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. If the tumor is localized, then it is surgically removed and chemotherapy is used to destroy the remaining cancer cells. If the tumor has spread, then surgery is not possible and chemotherapy alone is used to control the spread.

Due to the high death rate and side effects of chemotherapy, many patients look for alternative or complementary methods of treatment in Chinese medicine.

Chinese medicine usually involves a combination of several approaches instead of a single medicine.

**1. Anticancer herbs.** There are several cancer-fighting herbs, but akebia fruit, oldenlandia and solanum are considered most effective in treating stomach cancer. These crude herbs have functions similar to chemotherapy.

**2. Blood-vitalizing herbs.** Individuals with cancer tend to have higher blood viscosity and poor circulation. Curcuma, salvia, millettia, notoginseng and rhubarb are known to boost circulation and enhance the effectiveness of chemotherapy.

**3. Immune-boosting herbs.** Herbs listed as qi tonics are used to counteract side effects of chemotherapy and to help the immune system attack the cancer. The immune functions of the body that can be impaired by chemotherapy and radiation treatment can be reactivated with astragalus and ligustrum. These increase the production of white blood cells.

**4. Phlegm resolving herbs.** Masses of cells are considered phlegm in Chinese medicine. Malt, citrus, chicken-gizzard membranes, areca-nut, barley shoots, arisaema cum bile and hawthorns are used to try and break up the mass.

## Food therapy options

Food therapy can be a complementary method to help a patient's stomach recover.

### 1. Walnut branches and egg.

Remove the leaves from several walnut branches and boil them thoroughly. Use this water to boil eggs. Eat two boiled eggs daily.

### 2. Honey, vinegar and mineral water.

Mix 20 milliliters of honey, 30 to 40 milliliters of vinegar and 50 milliliters of mineral water together and drink it daily.

### 3. Mushrooms and pig blood.

Stew 500 grams of mushroom in 250 grams of pig blood. Eat it once a day.

### 4. Honeysuckle, licorice and green tea.

Decoct 100 grams of honeysuckle,

15 grams of licorice, 20 grams of scutellaria barbata and 10 grams of green tea. Drink daily.

### 5. Peanut and lotus root.

Mash up and stew 50 grams of peanuts and lotus roots with 20 milliliters of milk and 30 milliliters of honey. Eat it once a day.

### 6. Snakegourd fruit and orange peel.

Decoct 25 grams of sankegourd fruit and orange peel, 15 grams of pawpaw and coptis root and 10 grams of licorice. Drink it once a day.

Try to eat whole grains every day. The rich fiber can help stomach cancer patients clean out the stomach, colon and intestines to keep them free of prolonged exposure to carcinogens.

# Tropical fruit tours and winter diversions in Changping



By Zhang Dongya

The Special Vegetable Base in Xiaotangshan, Changping District offers a unique experience for visitors who can't make it down south to pick tropical fruits.

Exotic fruits are grown at the base, the likes of which are only seen in tropical climates or at the supermarket.

Xiaotangshan also has a ski slope and several hot springs, so you can plan a substantial itinerary for a weekend get-away.



Photo by Xu Yongxin

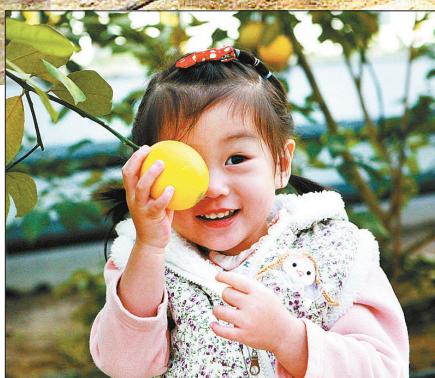


Photo by Tong Tong

## Former catering base

Special Vegetable Base, with more than 100 greenhouses, is prominently located off the Beijing-Chengde Highway.

Founded in 1983, the Xiaotangshan Special Vegetable Base was built to cater to athletes participating in the 1990 Asian Games, which Beijing hosted. Vegetables from areas all around China were grown so that athletes in Beijing could have the same fresh vegetables they'd find in their hometowns.

After the event, technicians began to explore the possibility of planting tropical fruits from the south in the garden. In 1999, papaya was first introduced. Today, more than 10 species of exotic fruits, including wax apple, soursop and guava, are grown there.

There are several conference rooms, hotels and restaurants there as well. Other recreational facilities include a tennis court, chess and cards room, and fishing park.

## Fruit tour

Unlike downtown amusement parks and Spring Festival temple fairs, Changping doesn't get many visitors. One will see only scatterings of families, with parents teaching their children how to pick different vegetables, fruits and flowers.

This season, visitors can see banana trees, pineapples, papayas, dragon fruits, lemons, sweetsops, guava and strawberries. Some gardens close sporadically for disinfection.

The lemon trees are a particularly nice sight, filled with yellow lemons that shimmer like gold under the sunlight, which pours in through the

glass ceiling.

Banana trees grow tall and luxuriant, with large leaves extending to the ceiling. Bananas are still an unripe green, so the ones that are picked should be stored for a few days before eating. Small tags hang on the trees to record the bananas' growth.

Between the trees is a stone-paved road that is just wide enough for two people to walk side by side. Parents take the hand of their child to walk along the road and view the fruits.

The advantages of getting fruits from the greenhouse are obvious. Tropical fruits transported from the south suffer on the long journey and are picked several days before ripening to preserve their durability. Some are processed by artificial ripening at the cost of their natural quality and flavor.

The Beijing Agricultural Technology Development Station has made a great effort to improve the soil for growing southern fruits in the north, controlling humidity and temperature. Through careful nurturing, tropical fruits from the garden have maintained their nutritional value.

Ripe orange papayas wind around the trunk of the tree, an unusual sight for those more accustomed to seeing fruits hanging off branches. Several fallen papayas, small and green, are scattered on the ground.

Pineapples grow from the ground. They are still small, hidden among barbed leaves.

The only vegetable garden that's open to visitors is the cucumber garden, where a large swathe of them are tended to constantly by employees.



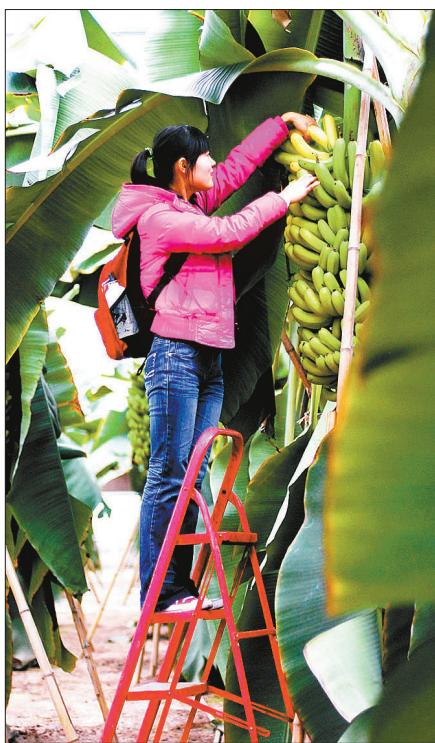
Banana buds



Star fruit blossom Photos by Wang Min



Loquat Photo by Xu Guomin



Visitors enjoy picking fruits.

Photo by Wang Min

Continued on page 21...

...continued from page 20

### Xiaotangshan Special Vegetable Base

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Chengde Highway toward Beiyuan, exit at the Xiaotangshan Toll Station and turn right at the first traffic light, then left at the second traffic light. The Special Vegetable Base is on the south of Daliushu Huandao.

Or take Subway Line 5 to Tiantongyuan North Station and transfer to Bus 634. Disembark at the Tecai Daguanyuan stop.

Admission: 10 yuan

Price for fruit picking: 60 yuan per kilogram of papaya, 20 yuan per kilogram of banana, 50 yuan per kilogram of cherry tomato.

Tel: 6178 6342

Note: Bananas and papayas are available for picking year-round, but the garden can only receive a limited number of fruit-pickers each day. Visitors are required to make a reservation a day in advance.

The garden provides ladders for fruit from trees.

Take care of your children: keep them off barbed plants and leaves.

Accommodations:

The Special Vegetable Base can accommodate 120 people at a time. Standard rooms are 320 yuan, and 160 yuan for groups of 10 or more people.

Tel: 6178 4740

A restaurant in the base features organic vegetables produced from the garden. Average cost is 50 yuan per person.

Tel: 6178 1449



Unripe papayas

### Other destinations around Special Vegetable Base

#### Dingdushan Ski Resort

This is the nearest ski resort to downtown Beijing. With professional ski equipment and recreational facilities, it attracts many professional and amateur skiers. It also provides nighttime skiing using yellow lights.

Where: 588 Zhenshun Village, Cuicun Town, Changping District

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Chengde Highway toward Changping. Take Baishan exit from Shunsha Lu and drive north.

Admission: 160 yuan on weekdays, 220 yuan on weekends

Tel: 6072 5888

#### Fengshan Hot Spring

Located at the eastern edge of Changping Reservoir near Mangshan National Forest Park, it has more than 70 hot spring pools dotted with rocks and plants. There are different kinds of baths, including flower bath, Chinese herbal medicine bath and tea bath.

Where: 10 Mangshan Lu, Changping District

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Tibet Highway and take Changping Nanhuan exit. Drive east toward Shuiku Lu and turn left.

Cost: 268 yuan for admission; 480 yuan for standard room

Tel: 6071 1188

#### Jiuhua Spa and Resort

Jiuhua is one of Beijing's first and most popular hot spring resorts. The water is tapped from Xiaotang Mountain, known for its hot springs for more than three centuries.

The resort's main attraction is a big lake surrounded by small hot spring pools. The pools are labeled according to the herbal medicines they contain. Paths leading to the pools are paved with cobblestones, which massage the soles.

Jiuhua has large courtyards equipped with rooms, lounges and meeting rooms, which are suitable for excursions with family or friends. Each yard has both an indoor and outdoor hot spring pool. Visitors traditionally sip tea while taking a dip. It also has wooden and stone rooms for couples or smaller groups of three to five.

Where: Daliushu Huandao, Xiaotangshan, Changping District

Getting there: Take Bus 984 to Jiuhuashanzhuang stop, or take Subway Line 5 to Tiantongyuan North Station, then transfer to Bus 984.

Cost: 188-288 yuan for admission, 480 yuan for standard rooms

Tel: 6178 2288



Walking among the banana trees



Papaya blossom



Star fruit



Dragon fruit  
Photos by Wang Min

## Dining



### Free serving of Samosas at Ganges

Come experience superb service and delicious, authentic Indian cuisine at this award-winning restaurant. Mention "A Bite of Beijing" to receive a free serving of vegetable samosas with your meal!

Where: Ganges Indian CBD restaurant, 38A, B1 Building, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District; Ganges Indian Sanlitun restaurant, S9-31, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District; Ganges Indian Haidian restaurant, 1F, Sancaitang Building, 160 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District; Ganges Indian Lido restaurant, 5, 1F, 2 Hairun International Department, 2A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Through December  
Tel: 6587 2999 (CBD), 6416 0181 (Sanlitun), 6262 7944 (Haidian), 5135 8353 (Lido)



### Braised abalone and organic rice

Abalone is one of the most prized ingredients in the Chinese kitchen, and Rouge does it right. Most associated with Cantonese cuisine, Rouge's braised abalone with organic rice is elaborate in presentation and flavorful, making dining here a royal experience.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District  
Tel: 5993 8888

## Airline

### Jetstar to cooperate with Cathay Pacific and Dragonair

Australia's low-fare leader Jetstar has approved two new interline agreements with Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific and Dragonair that will allow customers to purchase a Jetstar or Jetstar Pacific flight as part of a single integrated transaction and travel itinerary.

Cathay Pacific operates up to 18 daily services between Hong Kong and Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam, while Dragonair offers an extensive North Asian network and connects into Jetstar Pacific in Vietnam via Hanoi.

The agreements mark the 16th and 17th established interline airline agreements in Jetstar's growing carrier partnerships, including Qantas, Air France/KLM, American Airlines, Air Canada and Japan Airlines.

Jetstar Chief Commercial Officer David Koczkak said the new agreements were part of Jetstar's ongoing expansion into the China market.

He said this would provide a new and important connection for inbound Hong Kong and Chinese flyers to travel to and around Australia as well as within Asia on its Pan-Asian network.

### SIA buys stake in China Cargo Airlines

Singapore Airlines Cargo plans to acquire 16 percent of the equity interest in China Cargo Airlines, subject to regulatory approval.

China Cargo Airlines is a Shanghai-based company incorporated with an initial registered capital of 950 million yuan. It is currently 70

percent owned by China Eastern Airlines and 30 percent owned by China Ocean Shipping (COSCO).

Following an investment agreement signed in Shanghai today, the parties will seek approval for China Cargo Airlines to be re-organized into a limited liability Chinese-foreign equity joint-venture company. If approved, its registered capital will increase to 3 billion yuan.

SIA Cargo's investment in the re-organized company would total 328 million yuan.

### KLM to launch service to Xiamen

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will begin flying to Xiamen International Airport on March 27, 2011, at which time it will be the first airline to offer direct flights between Xiamen and Europe.

"This 7th destination in China strengthens KLM's position in this fast-growing market. In Europe, KLM has the largest portfolio of Greater China destinations. With this new route, KLM will offer 43 weekly flights to Greater China," said KLM President and CEO Peter Hartman.

Xiamen is the second-largest city in Fujian Province and has a population of 3 million.

The new route will be operated three times a week. Flight KL883 will depart from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, returning from Xiamen the following day. The return flight, KL884, will depart from Xiamen International Airport on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, arriving in Amsterdam on the same day. Flights will be carried by a Boeing 777-200ER that is capable of seating 318 passengers.

## Tourism

### Mauritius sees 9.5 percent tourist boom

Tourist arrivals in Mauritius during November were very positive. In fact, the country received nearly 86,000 visitors in November: a 9.5 percent increase over the same period last year.

The main source market, France, recorded a growth of more than 13 percent with 34,359 tourists. The second main market, Reunion, was up 14 percent with 5,480 visitors in November. Germany sent 11.3 percent more visitors, with 6,217.

Double-digit growth in tourist numbers was seen in China, India and Russia: China was up 36.7 percent, India 34 percent and Russia 36.3 percent.

## Hotel



### "Landing to Bed" promotion at Swissotel Beijing

Luxury always comes at a price, but this time it may be less than you would expect. Swissotel Beijing is beginning its new "Landing to Bed" promotion today!

Check into an Executive Club Room or Suite for business or pleasure. The exclusive treatment offers personalized service, premium accommodations, breakfast in the exclusive lounge, tea, coffee and soft drinks all day and evening cocktails, meeting room and high-speed Internet access, free local calls and generous discounts on laundry, restaurants and business center facilities.

Call Swissotel Beijing before February 28, 2011 or visit [swissotel.com/beijing](http://swissotel.com/beijing) to take advantage of a special promotion rate in the Executive Club room and access to the Swiss Executive Floor.

Where: Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: Until February 28, 2011

Cost: starting from 900 yuan per room per night (15 percent gratuity)  
Tel: 6553 2288

### 281 Marriott rooms to open in Yiwu 2014

Marriott International recently signed a management agreement with Sanding Holding Group for a 281-room deluxe Marriott-branded hotel in Yiwu set to open in 2014.

The Yiwu Marriott Hotel will be situated at the juncture of Shangcheng and Futian Roads near the International Trade City. It will be the first Marriott International-branded hotel in the city and will have the largest guest rooms, the largest ballroom and the largest function space. Most travelers bound for Yiwu hail from the European Union, the US, the United Arab Emirates and Russia.

"After establishing a solid presence in China's major coastal cities, we're excited by our continued expansion into the country's secondary and tertiary cities," said Simon Cooper, Marriott International's president and managing director for the Asia-Pacific Region.

"We're confident that the hotel's superb location and quality design, coupled with the local government's active promotion of the city as the top MICE destination in Zhejiang Province, will contribute to the Yiwu Marriott quickly becoming the hotel of choice for domestic and international visitors to the city," he said.

(By Jackie Zhang)

**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at [wangyu2008@ynet.com](mailto:wangyu2008@ynet.com).

# “Not in her league” – or am I?

By Annie Wei

I asked a girlfriend to meet me at Q bar Thursday night for a martini. While waiting for her, I spotted someone I dated once or twice five years ago.

Damn! It's awful to bump into people like that – former dates or exes. Normally, I pretend that I don't recognize them.

I thought he would act the same way. But – how dare he! – he walked by with his friend and asked, “Hey, do you still remember me?”

“Sure, Aaron, how could I forget the most infamous playboy in town,” I said.

He beamed.

We started chatting because I was alone in the bar and my Taiwanese girlfriend might as well be the queen of late.

We talked about common friends we still kept in touch with.

Then we mentioned Stacey, the woman who was the reason that our fledgling relationship never worked.

Five years ago, I took Aaron to a birthday party and introduced Stacey to him because they were both from Guangzhou and had both graduated from Tsinghua University.

I used to treat Stacey like a younger sister: she was smart and cute, with a slim body and long legs. We loved chatting about cosmetics, health, fashion, career, families and boys.

I never thought Stacey and Aaron would ever click. Aaron was not her type – Stacey loved muscular men.

At least, she kept mentioning

she wanted a tall and handsome boyfriend who could hug her and walk with her along Chang'an Avenue, watching the sunset. Aaron is short and chunky. But he is a smart guy with a successful business and he's generous to his friends and women.

Little did I know.

Later, during a girls' night out, Stacey said to me, “Aaron asked you out as well? How could he? He bought me dinner a couple times. I was considering being his girlfriend if he bought me some nice gifts.”

Stacey said this in front of six other girls, and I was irate.

After that night, both of them made my blacklist.

Fast-forward five years, to Q bar, and here's Aaron saying, “Oh, sorry, I didn't know you and Stacey were close friends.”

“Don't be. We're still friends, but not close anymore,” I said coldly. “It wasn't because of you. It's because I'm not in her league after finding out what kind of friend she could be.”

“Don't say that,” Aaron said. “I am not in someone's league” means you think you're inferior to her. You mean to say the two of you have drifted apart because you're different people, right?”

Ha, damn right!

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to [wangyu2008@ynet.com](mailto:wangyu2008@ynet.com) together with your name and address.

## Please Wait Outside, Rice-Noodle Flour

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

I had the privilege of being invited to a translators' meeting where I got to meet some of the best translators in China. They care about language – excellent Chinese, fluent English, beautiful and accurate translations. They are a very rare breed in this modern society, and I aspire to be one of them.

That said, it doesn't take a professional translator to recognize the colossal mistranslation here. Who translated this thing?! It's not simply the Chinese aspect of it, but also the regression of language in general, both English and Chinese. It is about someone going for a cheap and fast translation and getting exactly what was paid for.



This sign makes perfect sense if we add a comma after “outside,” and if your name is Rice-Noodle Flour. Or Or Flour Rice-Noodle, in Chinese – surname goes first, of course. Imagine – your own special waiting place!

Let's look more closely. The first char-

acter, *qing*, means “please.” Now, grammatically in Chinese, we use *zai*, or “at,” next. Here is the confusing part. *Mixian*, the fourth and fifth characters, is a famous rice-noodle dish from Yunnan or Guilin Province, except with the *yi* (“one”) in front, it has another meaning, which would make more sense in an airport: the “one-meter line.” The third to last character is *wai*, or “outside,” and the last two characters are *denghou*, literally “waiting time” or “while waiting.”

A better translation might be: Please wait outside the one-meter line.

Speaking of ... it would be a great idea for airlines to serve rice noodles for people who are waiting. You could give high customer service marks and proudly sign your name Rice-Noodle Flour.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multi-national company, then watch out for this page each week

**1. In my eye, he is a very kind man.**

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** It is fairly treacherous for a beginner to decide upon the usage, plural or singular, of phrases involving the word “eye.” When it means the ability to see small differences in things, the singular “eye” is used: He has an artist's eye for color. He has an eye for the rich parade of human eccentricity. He has an eye for detail. “We need a third party on the stage of the next presidential debate to look Americans in the eye” (Thomas L. Friedman). When it means a look or a glance, the singular is still used: Gauguin smiles with a glint of contempt as he turns his head to look out of the corner of his eye. He cast an eye on the pretty girl. Generally speaking, when one refers to vision or sight, the plural is used: A jet pilot must have good eyes. When it figuratively means a way of thinking or considering a point of view, opinion or judgment, the plural is used as well: Stealing is a crime in the eyes of the law. To Western eyes, this handicraft is fairly unique in design. Through the eyes of the world, these relief efforts have been fairly successful. So, in the sample sentence, it should be: In my eyes, he is a very kind man. It means, “In my judgment ...”

**Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ):** Similar to “eye,” one phrase many students like to use is “in my view.” I do not particularly like this expression because, to me, “my view” represents something one is actually looking at. I know that many people have learned this expression, and while it is not wrong, I think “in my opinion” is better, clearer and more accurate.

**2. The plan is designed to give up and coming accounting students hands on experiences.**

**ZS:** This sentence is grammatically all right. We know the colloquial phrase “give hands on.” However, it is fairly confusing on paper. When the compound attributive “up-and-coming” is not well hyphenated, you might link the verb “give” with the preposition “up,” and then the sentence means just the opposite. So, I think in order to avoid such confusion, we should hyphenate all the compound words, though there is such a strong tendency to avoid using hyphens. I have an example: The government tries its best to give out of towners equal opportunities to education. As there is a ready phrase “give out,” the sentence is likewise confusing. We should make it clearer by adding hyphens: The government tries its best to give out-of-towners equal opportunities to education.

**TBZ:** I am a big fan of hyphens – and I often like to use them as emphasis (though to get technical, these here are actually dashes) – instead of a plain, old comma. Compound words are great – I wish we had more of them – and I read recently that they count for only one word on fill-in-the-blank sections of the IELTS reading exam – more description within the three-words-or-less limit.

**3. I cannot this minute call it to the mind.**

**ZS:** The idiomatic English expression “call to mind” means remembering something. There is no definite article before the word “mind.” The sample sentence should be: I cannot this minute call it to mind. “Call to mind” is similar with the phrase “call up”: Your letter calls up the days when we worked together. Similarly, you may well say: Your letter calls to mind the days when we worked together. I'll show you another example: Gauguin stares ahead with a gravity that calls to mind Rembrandt's picturing himself in his later years. Just as I told you on many previous occasions, you have to commit to memory English phrases as they are, some with definite articles and some without. In this case, there is no definite article.

**TBZ:** Just a word of caution: if you commit English phrases to memory, please make sure to remember them correctly, right down to the definite articles. An example is: The last, but not the least. If you wish to use this as the final point in your essay, you do not need the articles. Better to write: Last but not least.

# Black Swan (2010)

## Movie of the week

Directed by Darren Aronofsky, *Black Swan* is dark and sometimes scary. While ballet fans might be let down by the actors' techniques, ordinary viewers who don't frequent the high-brow may forgive the dancing and music to enjoy this charming story about backstage paranoia.

Natalie Portman is easily the best of the cast. She supposedly spent an entire year studying ballet to prepare for the role, and her dancing is a wonderful complement to her already superb acting. Though the first half of the movie is a little slow, Portman makes it watchable.

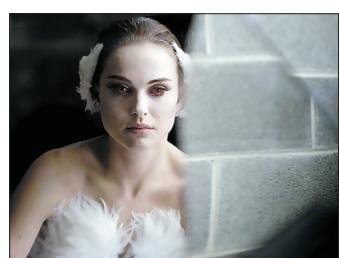
## Synopsis

A prestigious New York ballet company is preparing a new edition of *Swan Lake*. The production requires one ballerina to play both the innocent white swan and the sensual black swan.

One dancer, Nina, is an easy favorite for the white swan, but Lily's personality is a perfect match for the black swan. The competition for the dual role brings the two closer together and helps Nina find her dark side.

## Scene 1

(Nina speaks to Thomas, the director, about the role of the black swan.)



Thomas (T): Yes, Nina?

Nina (N): Do you have a minute? If now's not a good time, I get it.

T: Now is perfect. So ...

N: I just wanted to tell you that I practiced the coda (1) last night and I finished. I thought you should know.

T: OK. Nina, listen. Honestly, I don't care about your technique. You should know that by now.

N: Yeah, but yesterday ...

T: No. Anyway ... I've already chosen Veronica. Sorry. Sorry.

N: OK. Thank you.

T: That's it? You're not going to try and change my mind? You must have thought it was possible. Otherwise, what are you doing here all dolled up (2)?

N: I came to ask for the part.

V: Well ... The truth is when I look at you, all I see is the white swan. Yes, you're beautiful, fearful, fragile and ideal for casting. But

the black swan? It's a hard f---king job to dance both.

N: I can dance the black swan, too.

T: Really? In four years, every time you dance, I've seen you obsess over getting each and every move perfectly right, but I never see you lose yourself. Ever. All that discipline for what?

N: I just want to be perfect.

T: You what?

N: I want to be perfect.

T: Perfection is not just about control. It's also about letting go. Surprise yourself so you can surprise the audience. Transcendence. And very few have it in them.

N: I think I do have it in me.



## Scene 2

(Beth, the former black swan, is injured in a car accident.)

N: What happened?

T: She walked into the street and got hit by a car. You know what? I'm almost sure she did it on purpose (3).

N: How do you know?

T: Because everything Beth does comes from within, from some dark impulse. I guess that's what makes her so thrilling to watch. So dangerous – even perfect at times – but also so damned destructive.

N: Was it right after we saw her?

T: Wait, wait, wait. This has nothing to do with you. It's not your problem, so don't let yourself be distracted. This is your moment (4), Nina. Don't let it go.



## Scene 3

(In the rehearsal hall, Thomas makes Nina dance repeatedly without giving any suggestions.)

N: Do you have any corrections?

T: Lily told me that she saw you crying. That you were very upset and that I should take it easy on you.

N: I didn't tell her that.

T: Maybe you need a little break. A day or two. Or maybe a month. What do you think?

N: She shouldn't have said anything.

T: No, you shouldn't be whining (5) in the first place.

N: I didn't.

T: You could be brilliant. But you're a coward.

N: Sorry.

T: No, stop saying that! That's exactly what I'm talking about. Stop being so weak. Again!

## Vocabulary

1. **coda:** the final part of a musical structure

2. **all dolled up:** dressed up for a special occasion

3. **on purpose:** intentionally

4. **one's moment:** an opportunity that comes only once

5. **whine:** to complain or protest in a childish fashion

(By Wang Yu)